STOURBRIDGE
CHRONICLE

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Bowled over

Town cricket club unveils its new £36,000 nets

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Home team gets focused in time to see off challenge

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FAMILY DEVASTATED BY ROAD TRAGEDY

THE devastated wife and children of Chris Clarke have been trying to come to terms with his death while crossing a busy road in Brierley Hill.

Mr Clarke, a 53-year-old taxman, was hit by a car while crossing Pedmore Road last week. He was walking to work at HM Revenue and Customs at The Waterfront, next to the Merry Hill shopping centre.

by Naomi Dunning

He had crossed the road nearly every working day for 16 years. But on Friday morning he was hit by a car and suffered fatal head injuries, leaving his widow Dorretta, daughter Rebecca and son David heartbroken.

Now they have called for a pedestrian crossing to be installed on the road.

Crossing

Mrs Clarke, aged 51, of Lantern Road, Dudley Wood, Netherton, said: "I often used to walk to work with him because I'm a cleaner at Debenhams in Merry Hill. But on Friday I wasn't on the 7am shift so wasn't with him.

"Hundreds of people cross that road every day from the nearby housing estate but the only crossing is at the top of Merry Hill lights, at the Quarry Bank end.

"There's no crossing at the bottom end where he had to go over the road, which is several hundred yards away from the lights. There should be a crossing along there."

Mr Clarke was looking forward to the birth of his first grandchild, and to a day out with his daughter at Sandown Park races on the day after he died.

Rebecca Clarke, aged 28, of Reddall Hill Road, Cradley Heath, who worked with her dad as an HMRC officer, said: "He loved horse racing and a pint of beer at Ma Pardoe's in Netherton. He was really looking forward to going to Sandown with me."

Miss Clarke told how police arrived at her home on Friday at 8.50am to give her the news of his death.

"I was just about to go into work when the police came . I went with them to tell mum what had happened," she added.

"It's a big shock. He was very fit and did so much walking – you had to run to keep up with him."

Mr Clarke, who used to play bowls for Old Hill British Legion and The Woodman pub in Netherton, was brought up in Quarry Bank. His parents, Raymond, aged 79, and Joan, 78, live in Heath Road, Netherton.

He and his wife, who grew up with her parents, George and Joyce Pearshouse in Hall Street, Old Hill, met 34 years ago when they worked at the Whitehouse hammer factory in Cradley Heath.

Grandchild

They would have celebrated their 32nd wedding anniversary in July, and in October their 25-year-old son David's partner Kayleigh Williams is due to give birth to their first grandchild.

Rebecca added: "My dad would never say a bad worth about anybody. I don't think he realised how popular he was, but we have had hundreds of messages of support since the accident."

Chris and Dorretta Clarke celebrating his 30th wedding anniversary two years ago

Chris enjoying hang-gliding

The busy Pedmore Road

Protesters fuming at snub by waste firm

CAMPAIGNERS are fuming after bosses behind controversial plans for a waste recycling plant refused to meet them to discuss their concerns.

Energy firm Clean Power Ltd wants permission for the development on disused land near a railway line, off Moor Street, Brierley Hill, close to the former Royal Brierley Crystal glassworks.

But residents fear the plant would blight the town, leading to increased traffic along already busy roads. Bosses at the firm were invited to attend a public meeting so residents could put forward their concerns.

But councillors claimed the firm declined to attend – although the public meeting will still go ahead on May 15, with the venue still to be determined.

The development would employ around 30 and would turn waste into gas to generate electricity. Concerns stem from the amount of traffic to and from the site.

Councillor Judy Foster, ward member for Brockmoor and Pensnett, said a second invitation had been sent tothe firm.

A Clean Power spokesman said the firm would consider the second invitation. He said the company had staged public consultations and had heeded people's concerns.

School is to be academy

CONTROVERSIAL plans to convert a Stourbridge school into an academy have been approved by governors despite protests.

Union members and teachers have formed picket lines outside Redhill School to voice their concerns.

But headteacher Stephen Dunster said the conversion of the school, in Junction Road, would go ahead, by June 1.

In a statement school bosses said the decision had been taken after lengthy and thorough process of consultation with staff and parents.

College's merger plan is to go ahead

MULTI-MILLION pound merger plans for Stourbridge College have been agreed, paving the way for the link-up to start this summer.

Bosses at the Hagley Road college announced that proposals to merge with Birmingham Metropolitan College have been finalised.

The merger will bring together thousands of students with the combined college having a turnover of more than £100 million per year.

Bosses say the new college will deliver the skills the region needs to promote and sustain economic growth.

They also say it will offer a greater choice of academic and vocational courses and help them to develop specialist facilities across the college campuses.

The combined college will also aim to increase the opportunities for students after they finish their courses. Birmingham Met is already involved in a partnership project with Kidderminster College called The Academy.

Stourbridge College Corporation chairman David Nolan said: "The merger will bring increased investment and more opportunities to make a real difference to local people here in the Black Country and in the Wyre Forest region."

Archdeacon to step down

THE Archdeacon of Dudley, The Venerable Fred Trethewey, is to step down after 12 years.

The Ven Trethewey will retire at the end of September to take up a new role as Priest-in-Charge of Christ Church in Brittany, France.

He served as the vicar of St John's Church in Brockmoor, chaplain at Russell's Hall Hospital, and Rural Dean of Kingswinford.

He said: "It is with very mixed feelings that I look forward to the next chapter in my life and ministry."

Town tuning up for first blues festival

MUSICIANS are getting ready for Stourbridge's first blues festival.

The much-anticipated event will feature 11 acts and be spread over 12 hours at Stourbridge Rugby Club's Stourton Park on May 18.

Organiser Gary Child, who came up with the idea after being challenged by a friend, said of the 300 tickets available, 197 had already been sold.

He said: "Tickets are selling very well – Stourbridge has a good music scene and I think this is something many people have been waiting for.

"We are going to have a 12-hour event showcasing a range of good, local blues bands from start to finish. I'm sure it will make excellent family fun – we're all looking forward to it."

Mr Child, a 52-year-old logistics manager of Warner Drive, Brierley Hill, said he hoped the event would raise £1,000 for Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge. It will begin on an outdoor acoustic stage at 1pm with acts Jack Blackman, The Trebletones, Blues Boy Dan, Krystal Mills and Sarah Warren.

At 6pm it will turn to an indoor stage with the Paul Stedman Band, the Tom Walker Trio, Barrelhouse blues band, Mojohooker, Laurence Jones and finishing off with Slowburner.

Tickets are £10 and are available at **stourbridgebluesfestival.co.uk** or at Stourton Park on Bridgnorth Road.

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Sports clubs boom thanks to Olympics

THE NUMBER of people using the region's sports clubs has rocketed, thanks to the London Olympics.

Some clubs are drawing up plans to expand to accommodate their growing roster of members.

Dudley and Stourbridge Harriers Athletics Club has more than 100 names on its waiting list, including 80 youngsters.

The club was inundated with calls from people interested in trying out disciplines such as hurdles and long distance running after the Olympics, and demand has continued since.

Secretary Barbara Shepherd said the club, which holds two sessions a week at Brierley Hill's Dell Stadium, would like to expand but did not want to increase fees.

She added: "We are absolutely full at the moment – people ask why we can't just get more coaches but they are just volunteers so we have to get them qualified, and the courses can be expensive."

Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletics Club has taken on 13 new coaches after numbers rose to nearly 500.

Bosses are looking to apply for grants for a possible refurbishment and expansion of the club's facilities at Aldersley Leisure Village.

And Tipton Harriers, based at Tipton Sports Academy in Wednesbury Oak Road, now has more than 400 members.

General secretary Marg Cherrington said: "I think we would like to expand but we will have to look at where it will be possible."

Suspended sentence for thug, 21, in attack

A THUG has been sentenced to eight months imprisonment suspended for 18 months for his role in a "disgraceful" attack on an innocent family in Stourbridge.

Philip Payne, aged 21, of Churchwood Close, Stourbridge, was one of a drunk and aggressive group that gathered in a street in Wollaston at around 11.45am on July 22 last year.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard last week that the group was shouting in the street and a female resident called for them to be quiet through the window of her home.

But the group responded by shouting abuse at her, kicking her fence and overturning garden furniture.

The court was told the woman's son went out of the house to confront them and his father followed soon after to try to get him back in the house.

Howard Searle, prosecuting, said Payne threw a punch at the older man and later both the father and son were pelted with stones. The son suffered a cut.

Identified

Both were taken to hospital following the attack. The older man suffered bruising and swelling to his eye and a chipped tooth.

Mr Searle said the mother was also attacked by a 17-year-old girl who was part of the group.

"Upon arrival police took the mother on a drive around nearby streets to see if they could track down those responsible," he said. "She identified the girl and Payne.

"Originally the defendant said he had not been part of the affray and it was a case of mistaken identity."

The court was told it was "out of character" behaviour for Payne who did not normally drink, but had consumed four pints.

Payne admitted affray and Judge Martin Walsh told him: "You were part of a drunken group who entered this street late at night and caused a nuisance.

"This was a disgraceful incident in a public place and an attack on an innocent family.

"I have been persuaded on this occasion that I can suspend the sentence however if you are before the court again you will be sent to prison," he said.

Diamond couple's family celebration

Love at first sight – Robert and Sheila Wood, who have celebrated their diamond anniversary

THEY met at a Dudley fair when they were teenagers, and they have not parted company since.

Sheila Wood met her future husband Robert at the old Brierley Hill fair, held in Cottage Street, when she was 16, and now the couple have celebrated 60 years of marriage.

They have seven daughters and had a son Robert junior, who passed away aged four months.

They also have 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren, with another on the way.

Sheila, a retired sausage linker for Marsh & Baxter butchers who is now 77, said she was struck by Robert's thick black curly hair, and the pair married at Dudley Register Office a year after their paths first crossed.

She added: "We met at the fair, and I went with him, and we never parted. When I first saw him, I told my friend I liked him. He had thick, curly, black hair, and he was very handsome."

Retired Dudley Council worker Robert, now aged 80, revealed the secret to the pair's long long and happy marriage.

He added: "The secret to a long marriage is marrying the right person."

The pair, who used to enjoy swimming every day and now like to look around car boot sales, celebrated their milestone at a family meal – with 27 relatives – at The Court House in Kingswinford.

Sheila, who lives with Robert in Addison Road, Brierley Hill, added: "We're always together.

"We have silly little arguments but we never go to bed on one because we would never sleep."

Council is criticised over road reopening

DUDLEY Council has come under fire for partially reopening a road blocked by a landslip, instead of pressing ahead with a full solution.

The council says it has been unable to find out who owns the wall that collapsed near Stourbridge, causing the landslip. It decided to carry out a £10,000 temporary shore-up so that Red Hill could reopen in just one direction.

But Mr Major Robins, aged 66, of The Heathlands, off Red Hill, said at a Stourbridge Town Community Forum: "It's a council responsibility to restore the road to its full access. Having restored it at the council's expense they could then pass on the cost to the owners when they are found."

A council spokesman said it was believed the bank, which collapsed on to Red Hill from the end of gardens in Margaret Drive on Christmas Eve, had many different ownerships and enquiries to establish the legal situation continued.

And Pedmore and Stourbridge East Councillor Les Jones said: "We can't just spend money and then say we may be able to get it back."

Safety fears raised after man's death

A REVIEW will take place into safety at a crossing in Brierley Hill after an elderly man was knocked down and killed there.

Concerns have since been raised over the crossroads outside the police station.

Navy war veteran Arnold Soulsby, aged 90, died after being struck by a skip lorry while crossing at the Bank Street traffic lights on January 30. Ward councillor Rachel Harris visited the junction with traffic officers from Dudley Council to see if improvements could be made.

Residents aired their concerns at a recent public meeting.

Mr Soulsby, of Miles Court, John Street, was thought to be walking to nearby shops when the accident happened. An inquest has been opened and adjourned.

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School to get £1.6m facilities for sport

AN academy is celebrating after scooping £1.6 million to help transform its grounds to create a new modern sports hall.

Preparatory work will start within a fortnight on the project at Holly Hall Academy in Dudley thanks to cash from a government funding scheme.

However plans to build an outdoor all-weather pitch have been put on hold after staff failed to secure the additional cash needed.

But Principal Graham Lloyd, who has been at the school for 12 years, said staff were still celebrating.

"Everyone connected with the academy is thrilled by our success," he said. "This development is something I have been trying to achieve since I came to Holly Hall."

The sports hall building will contain space for four badminton courts and a full-size basketball court. Space for netball and handball courts will be created inside.

A new fitness suite with modern gym equipment will be installed. Staff will use the gym to teach children about healthy living and keeping fit.

Part of the money is also going towards creating a modern dance studio with a sprung floor. The grant came from the Academies Capital Maintenance Fund Application.

MP backs medical campaign

STOURBRIDGE MP Margot James is backing a campaign to raise awareness of a chromosome disorder.

She hosted the launch of the Max Appeal Consensus Document in the House of Commons.

The document aims to set a standard for the diagnosis and treatment of people with 22q11 deletion syndrome which causes conditions including heart defects, cleft palates and differences in facial features.

Among guests at the launch of the document was Stourbridge resident and Max Appeal founder Julie Wooton, who suffers from the condition.

Ms James said: "I was very pleased to be able to host the launch of the document in Parliament."

Canalside housing estate plan withdrawn

PLANS to built a canalside housing estate next to a proposed £5 million glass museum in Stourbridge have been withdrawn by the developers as further discussions take place with council bosses.

A decision on granting planning approval to build 48 properties on the site off the old Stuart Crystal glass works, in Wordsley, was tabled for last week.

But developers withdrew the plans before Dudley Council's planning committee meeting ahead of further negotiations with officers. A fresh date for the application to come before the committee has not been set.

Homes would be built on part of the former landmark glassworks, off Argyle Close, under the proposals by Morris Homes Ltd. The housing scheme had been recommended for approval by officers, who said it would help to breathe new life into the redundant site. Under the proposals a mix of 26 apartments and 22 three and four-bedroom properties would be built.

They would overlook the Stourbridge Canal, which runs through the former glassworks. Planning committee chairman, Councillor Rachel Harris, said: "The plans were withdrawn by the developer pending further negotiations of their planning obligations."

A Grade II listed former factory is due to be developed into a museum showcasing the history of the area's glassmaking heritage.

It stands near the Red House Glass Cone attraction and it is hoped to become the centre piece of Stourbridge's Glass Quarter.

The museum plans are being led by Complex Development Projects, which owns the land, and Dudley Council in partnership with the British Glass Foundation.

The Stuart Crystal works, also known as the White House Glass Cone, will house glass collections from across the region under the plans.

A Complex Developments spokesman said the developer was waiting to hear whether a £2million bid for European funding has been successful.

Cricket club is bowled over by new £36k nets

MEMBERS of a Stourbridge cricket club are celebrating after the unveiling of their new nets, worth £36,000.

The English Cricket Board chipped in £27,000 towards the county class facility at Oldswinford Cricket Club, with the Ibstock Cory Environmental Trust topping it up to the total needed.

Club chairman Jim Hingley said: "They're fantastic and will give our members, particularly the children, a better opportunity to practise with a reliable bounce to improve their batting techniques. We're delighted."

The old nets, which had been at the pitch, off Albemarle Road, for at least 20 years, were replaced with an artificial grass surface, surrounded by 12ft high nets with a surrounding 10ft tall security fence.

Work to install the two-lane nets was carried out during the winter and they are now in use every week.

The club has nearly 200 members, with five adult teams, and around 120 youngsters aged seven to 16.

The younger players include 30 girls and the club last summer began encouraging children and teenagers with disabilities, including sensory impairments and those with learning or coordination difficulties.

Disabilities

Club secretary Ken Slater said: "Involving people with disabilities was the idea of one of our coaches, 22-year-old Katie Blunt, who approached Dudley Council to invite youngsters aged eight to 14 who have disabilities.

"The look on their faces when they were able to catch a ball was tremendous and now some of the children are integrating with our able-bodied young members."

Representatives of the Worcestershire Cricket Board joined club members for the official opening of the new nets by Dudley mayor, Councillor Melvyn Mottram.

Mr Slater said the club was grateful to the organisations that had financed the nets. He explained that the environmental trust was set up by Ibstock Brick Ltd and Cory Environmental Ltd, funded through the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme.

"Basically they plough back into the communities where holes have been dug for materials for bricks and then filled in," said Mr Slater. "We are very pleased they were able to support our project."

The mayor of Dudley, Councillor Melvyn Mottram, officially opens the nets at Oldswinford Cricket Club, off Albermarle Road

Club secretary Ken Slater addresses the crowd gathered for the opening ceremony

The mayor tries the nets

NEWS in brief

Firm steps in to rescue school

A COLD storage specialist came to the rescue of a Kingswinford secondary school which faced losing frozen food worth around £2,000.

Maintenance work on The Kingswinford School's electrical system meant freezers would have to be turned off.

The Water Street school's head cook Irene Pitt contacted logistics and cold storage group ACS&T who offered to help and provided space in their own Wolverhampton cold store.

Council plan to tackle obesity

A five-year plan has been launched aimed at tackling obesity in children and adults in Dudley after it emerged 15,000 young people were deemed overweight.

Age groups targeted include reception age and year six pupils.

Dudley Council health boss Councillor Zafar Islam said: "Obesity is a national priority, so it is a priority for us as well."

Figures say one in five, or 21 per cent of people, are obese in Dudley.

Peacock on run has traffic in a flap

A PEACOCK caused a flap in Dudley last week when it hopped out of the zoo and headed for a busy road.

The bird was spotted running between traffic at the junction of The Broadway and Castle Hill, outside The Fellows Club, next to Dudley Zoo.

A motorist shooed it into the club's car park, where it is believed to have hopped to from the zoo's grounds.

Dates for public meetings are set

A SERIES of tenants' and residents' association meetings (TRAs) are being held across the Dudley area next month.

Norton Greet TRA will hold its general public meeting on May 13 at Gig Mill School, The Broadway, Stourbridge, at 7pm. Chapel Street and Parkes Street TRAs will hold their AGMs on May 14.

Summer concert

BRIERLEY Hill Choral Society's summer concert with the Queen's Park Sinfonia orchestra is on May 11 at St Michael's Church, Brierley Hill, at 7.30pm. Tickets, £10 are available on the door or on 01384 830661.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

RESEARCHERS in America claim there's more to a sneeze than we imagine. An outgoing person delivers a big, noisy sneeze while a shy person holds it in, producing a stifled squeak. In this way, say the scientists, a sneeze reveals your true character. Or should that be your true catarrh?

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IT WAS good viewing but let's not pretend that Broadchurch (ITV) was cleverer than it actually was. Its creator, Chris Chibnall, now reveals a trail of "little clues," including the slug that Ellie found on her carpet and squashed in the final episode. This was apparently a metaphor for an intruder in the house. Oh, really? This must be the first slug in history to go over everybody's head. As for the scene where cops allowed the murdered boy's father to the door of the police cell so that he could harangue the killer, it was plain daft.

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IN AN appeal to our sense of Englishness, that portly, true-blue Tory Eric Pickles promises to restore ye ancient county names such as Westmorland, Cumberland and Huntingdonshire. The Local Government Minister thunders: "Administrative restructuring by previous governments has sought to suppress and undermine such local identities." You can almost hear the tankards clinking in Conservative clubs all over the land. All hail the old county names. God rot those who suppressed and undermined our heritage. And who were these subversive Trotskyites of yore who swept away our precious old counties? It was Ted Heath's Conservative government.

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USEFUL terms for our time. "Safari round" – frantic search by doctors for patients lost in hospitals, as revealed this week by the Royal College of Nursing.

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A REPORT by something called the Institute for Economics and Peace claims that Britain is becoming more peaceful with violent crime down by a quarter in nine years. On the same day it was reported to MPs that nearly 1,500 sex attackers were let off last year with a caution. Something doesn't add up.

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BILLY Connolly, now a teetotaller aged 70 but a hard drinker in his youth, says he's having trouble remembering the punchlines of his jokes. Nae bother, Billy. If in doubt, just crank up the Glaswegian accent and give them the old faithful: "Say, doctor, can ye nae take away the pain but leave the swelling?"

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A ROUNDABOUT in Warsaw may be renamed after Baroness Thatcher. Local politicians say a roundabout makes U-turns unnecessary, and Mrs T was famously not for turning. It's a fine tribute to a lady who was often more appreciated overseas than at home.

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THE Metropolitan Police have spent a whopping £68,000 having that distinctive three-cornered sign moved just 15 yards at New Scotland Yard. That's almost enough to pay for a police and crime commissioner. The difference is that everyone knows what a sign is for.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Club mourns death of stalwart Neville

CRICKETERS are in mourning after the sudden death of groundsman Neville Parrish, a stalwart at their Stourbridge club for more than 40 years.

"Every club like ours needs a 'Nev', as we called him," said Oldswinford Cricket Club chairman Jim Hingley.

"His loss has left a tremendous hole in our club."

Mr Parrish, aged 60, was found dead at his home in Shenstone Avenue, off The Broadway, Norton, Stourbridge, on April 14 after suffering a heart attack.

He used to play for the club's second XI, of which he was captain for a time, and was a committee member and the head groundsman. He was also the official scorer to the first XI in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Mr Hingley said: "Nev was totally dedicated.

"He would do anything for anybody. He will be sorely missed by so many at the club.

"We have not only lost a true friend but also a very considerate club member, who gave up so much of his own time for the benefit of others. No one probably realised the full extent of the work and hours that he put into the club."

Mr Parrish leaves his sister, Hilary Dunn, and brother-in-law, Bob Dunn. Mr Parrish's funeral was being held today (Thursday) at 12.20pm at Stourbridge Crematorium.

Neville Parrish

Drivers offer new talks to end taxi colour row

TAXI drivers will hold fresh talks with council officials in Dudley in an attempt to end a dispute over the colour of private hire vehicles in the borough.

Around 100 taxis brought the town to a standstill as they staged a go-slow drive past Dudley Council House, blasting their horns, in protest recently.

They were objecting to the council's policy of only allowing white private hire taxis to be used in the borough.

The protest drew anger from some councillors who said the policy was in place to allow people to identify easily licensed private taxis.

But members of Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association argue that white cars are more expensive.

They say some members have resorted to resprays in order to comply, costing hundreds of pounds. These costs are added to already high insurance premiums and fuel prices, they claim. More than 1,000 people signed a petition calling for a second colour.

The association has also argued that customers were used to seeing both white and silver private hire vehicles, because neighbouring boroughs allow different colours.

But Dudley Council's taxi committee members voted against them last month and the association is now threatening legal action.

Taxi association chairman Shaz Saleem said the group would talk again with the council to find a resolution.

Mr Saleem apologised for the disruption caused by the protest but said members wanted to get their views across.

Get in step at centre

A COMMUNITY centre in Brierley Hill is holding classes in ballroom and Latin American dancing.

Nine Locks Community Centre in Hill Street holds the classes every Monday from 2-4pm. Admission is £3 each. The lessons are organised by Nine Locks Community Association. For details, call Irene Korvin on 01384 822603.

Honours for community heroes

Dudley's mayor Councillor Melvyn Mottram with the Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir chairman Pete Hawthorne, vice-chairman Keith Moss, musical director Mike Wells and assistant musical director John Walley

COMMUNITY heroes in the Dudley area were recognised at an awards ceremony.

The Mayor's Civic Awards event was held at Dudley Town Hall, and 200 guests celebrated the achievements of groups and indviduals whose efforts improved the area.

Six categories produced nominations from sports and education volunteers to arts groups and environmentalists.

The winner of the top award, the Mayor's Award, was The Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir, which has been entertaining since 1957. The winner was decided after the mayor chose four organisations or people he had been in contact with during the year.

The four – the other three were the Hope Centre, Gloria Donovan of the Royal British Legion and the Dudley Olympics – were put to a public vote.

In the other categories, 91-year-old Nevil Jeynes won the Duncan Edwards award for his work supporting non-league football with Dudley Town FC. The Cedric Hardwicke award for arts was won by Sheila Littlewood, who runs an art and drama group for people with learning disabilities in Stourbridge.

Marion Griffiths, a trustee and campaigner for the White House Cancer Support Group in Dudley, won the Frank Foley award for community spirit.

The Thomas Attwood award for education went to Jeanette Mackinney, National College Local Leader of Education, for her work raising the standards of education in the borough. The Big Clean Up Group won the William Shenstone award for the environment for carrying out clean-up events.

Jobs are created at firm's new base

AN engineering tool making business is to take on up to 20 more staff after moving to new premises in Lye.

SRS Precision Engineering bought Redditch toolmaker Harper & Simmons in January.

The operation has now been moved from the Worcestershire town to the Old Forge Trading Estate where it will operate as SRS.

The firm, which employs 13, has moved to a 12,000 sq ft unit and is recruiting for the jobs that are being created following the move.

The specialist manufacturer of new and refurbished tools mainly for the automotive, white goods and aerospace industries, will service customers in the Midlands and nationally.

Chairman Steve Hayes said: "We decided to relocate the business to establish a new operating base. This gives us a professional platform to service our customer base."

Lye-based commercial property group Folkes Holdings fast-forwarded a lease arrangement in two weeks in order to meet SRS's relocation targets.

For details of the jobs e-mail andrea.ocleary@srs-precision.co.uk

Artists put their work on display

A FREE exhibition featuring the work of four acclaimed artists is being staged at Wordsley's Red House Glass Cone, Audnam, until May 26.

The four are members of the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists.

The exhibition is called the Black Country Seen and features paintings, ceramic sculptures, litho prints and experimental prints.

The artists, Brian Fletcher, Paul Hipkiss, Tom Millard and Peter Shread, are all from Stourbridge and have used the town's canals as a starting point for their work.

Cabinet member for environment and culture on Dudley Council, Councillor Tracy Wood, said: "I am really proud the Red House Glass Cone is the first space to exhibit these pieces."

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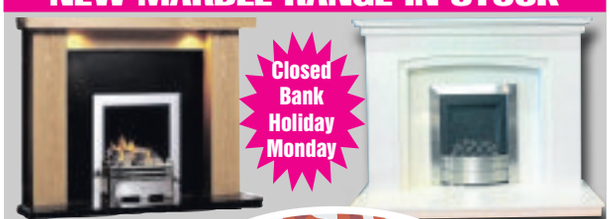
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Order granted to stop drinking on street

POLICE have been granted new powers to seize alcohol and ban drinking in the streets around Quarry Bank in a bid a stamp out booze-fuelled crimes and anti-social behaviour.

Residents and traders raised concerns with police about people drinking around the town centre and demanded rules be brought into curb boozing near shops and homes.

New laws have been ratified to bring in a Designated Public Places Order, which enforces the ban making on-street drinking illegal.

Councillors welcomed the move saying it was important to protect the image of Quarry Bank for visitors and shoppers.

Under the order, police officers and police community support officers can ask anyone believed to be consuming alcohol leading to anti-social behaviour to stop drinking and issue a £50 fixed-penalty notice.

Neighbourhood Sgt Duncan Rudge, of West Midlands Police, said the force had heeded concerns from residents wanting urgent action on the issue.

"Local businesses and residents have been telling us that they are unhappy with street drinking," he said.

"We have worked closely with Dudley Council to obtain this on-street drinking ban with overwhelming support from local businesses and public houses."

The idea was put out to public consultation in December and received overwhelming support with 82 of 84 responses backing the plan. There are already suchzones in Halesowen, Stourbridge, Dudley, Sedgley, Coseley, Woodsetton and Upper Gornal.

Dudley Council's licensing committee chairman, Councillor Hilary Bills, added: "The council has received applications for alcohol bans for many different areas across the borough in recent years.

"The council takes these police applications very seriously and the licensing and safety committee has wholeheartedly backed the application, which we are sure will be welcomed by residents living in the Quarry Bank area."

Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood ward Councillor Bryan Cotterill said he believed the zone would be another step to a blanket ban on drinking in public in the borough.

"I'm supportive of it so long as it can be policed then it works quite well," he said.

"A blanket ban would satisfy me. We want to protect the image of Quarry Bank."

Pubs or other permitted temporary public events will not be affected by the ban.

Boss hopes business confidence will spread

Mike Wheeler

THE boss of a Brierley Hill business, which is increasing its workforce by 50 per cent, is urging other small and medium-sized businesses to expand.

Mike Wheeler, founder of auto accessory manufacturer Auto Styling Truckman, said he hoped the slight growth in the economy announced last week would boost confidence among businesses.

The Narrowboat Way company, which employs 30, announced a £1 million year-on-year growth in turnover to £6.2m for 2012.

The company is now in its next stage of expansion with plans to increase its workforce by 15.

"I hope this kind of confidence is infectious and can spread across the economy," said Mr Wheeler.

Taste trials at hospital

PATIENT meals at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital are being revamped following complaints from people staying on the wards.

Staff have been trialling a new system aimed at providing improved choice and quality. Meals are brought in from outside and cooked on the wards under a programme called Steamplicity.

Patients have been asked for their views and their feedback will be used to make a final decision.

The 10 participants shared their experience.

Chief executive Paula Clark said: "We visited the supplier of an alternative food systemcalled Steamplicity and liked what we saw. Following this we have been running a pilot on one of our wards."

Society war talk

MEMBERS of Stourbridge Historical Society will be welcoming John Bourne, an expert on the First World War. He will talk about the effect of the war on his home town of Burslem, Stoke on Trent, on May 16 at 7.30pm at Stourbridge Town Hall.

Triumphant team dedicates cup win to tragic manager

With the cup are Darren Owen's sons Joe and Luke with the team, manager Pete Thompson and coach Simon Westwood

A YOUTH football team in Stourbridge is dedicating its cup success to its late manager, who died in a freak accident midway through the season.

Father-of-two Darren Owen died aged 36 after a fall while collecting Christmas decorations from the loft of his home in Dudley in December. He had managed Stourbridge Football Club Under-11s, which has now scooped silverware in the league cup.

The side, which includes his 10-year-old son Luke, won the Stourbridge and District Youth League Under-11s competition, beating Kewford Eagles South 2-0.

At the game at The Dell Stadium a week ago last Sunday, Darren's widow Becky handed out the winning medals to the side while his other son Joe, eight, was a ball boy.

Last Wednesday, following a league game against Halesowen Town at King Edward VI playing fields, the team met up again with Mrs Owen again for photographs to be taken.

Spurred

Coach Simon Westwood said: "Darren's death was a massive shock to everyone involved at the club.

"It affected us all, but after the two weeks off the players came back determined to give their best and achieve something in memory of Daz.

"The league asking Becky to award the winning medals at the game only spurred the team on and it was a great moment when we lifted the cup."

Former assistant manager Peter Thompson has since taken over Mr Owen as manager of the side. The team is fifth in the league's top division, but has games in hand and could still come top.

At last week's game, which the team won 3-0, the players turned out in specially-made polo shirts with Mr Owen's name on them.

Darren Owen – lovely man

Mr Westwood, 39, from Brierley Hill, said: "He was a brilliant person, a hard-working man, but most of all a lovely man – it still makes me sick to think he has gone.

"The success of the side was down to him. It was him who laid down the foundation, me and Peter have only followed his lead."

Mr Westwood said Mr Owen would always been remembered for his hard work.

"He was loved by the kids and popular with all the managers in the division and what we have achieved is all down to Darren's work during the pre-season," he said.

"The amount of cards and well-wishes we received following his death was phenomenal and a real tribute to how much he was liked and respected."

Mr Westwood said despite success the side would not be resting on its laurels and hoped to continue winning.

MP Margot to help Cameron on policy

STOURBRIDGE MP Margot James has been appointed to help David Cameron try to sharpen the Conservative Party political operation ahead of the next General Election.

She joins a new advisory board of Tory backbenchers that will meet several times a year to help develop and push through new policies.

The group includes Jo Johnson, brother of London Mayor Boris Johnson and Wolverhampton South MP Paul Uppal.

After their first meeting last week Mr Cameron posted on Twitter: "I told them I want more ideas to help hardworking people."

Mr Johnson will carry out his unpaid role alongside his paid duties as a Government whip.

Civic pair in tandem for charity cycle ride

DUDLEY'S mayor and his deputy are to swap their civic chains for bike chains in a charity tandem ride.

Councillor Melvyn Mottram and his deputy, Councillor Alan Finch, will do 10 laps of the Halesowen Athletics and Cycling Club track at 1pm on May 4, raising money for the mayor's charities – Dudley Stroke Association and the Diabetes UK Stourbridge, Dudley and District Support Group.

Members of the public can join them on the two-and-half-mile ride, and help to raise money for the charities. Councillor Mottram said: "It should be a lot of fun, and I hope people will be able to support us."

To sponsor them, see www.dudley. gov.uk/about/councillors/mayor-of-dudley

NEWS in brief

Artists to show work at centre

ARTISTS and craftspeople based at the Ruskin Glass Centre, Stourbridge, will open their doors to the public. The Open Studios event on May 18 and 19 will coincide with Craft and Design Month. Artists will display a wide range of creations from textiles to glass crafts to jewellery.

Centre manager Leigh White said: "There is so much talent in the Stourbridge area, and it will be great to see the public getting involved and being able for the first time to meet and talk to individual artists in their own studios."

Run challenges for youngsters

PUPILS aged five to 12 can join a run through Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Park on May 25.

The Schools' Fun Run is aimed at getting children and their families interested in running.

Separate runs will take place for those aged between five and eight, nine and 10 and 11 and 12, and are free and open to all.

Parents can reserve their child's place by visiting www.elmfield.com

New venue for forum meeting

DUDLEY'S Forum of Older People will try a new venue for its next meeting. The event, on May 20 at 1.30pm, will be at Insight House, Pearson Street, Brierley Hill.

There will be a talk about the work of the Black Country Food Bank, new Quality of Life standards in Dudley and the Home Instead care agency. Membership is open to over 50s living in Dudley borough.

Travelling poet to spread word

A POET is travelling from Manchester to Kidderminster to appear at a Mouth and Music night at the Boar's Head, Worcester Street, on May 14.

Dominic Berry – described as " totally nuts" – will appear with local musician Johnny Gash. It starts at 8pm.

Fair at church

THERE will be a spring fair at St Andrew's Church, Bilston Street, Sedgley, on Saturday, May 11 from 10am to noon. Stalls will include clothes. books, plants and bricabrac. Refreshments will be available. Proceeds will go to church funds.

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW WITH MARK ANDREWS

SO IT looks like the infamous hate preacher Abu Qatada will be with us for the foreseeable, following the Government's latest failed bid to deport him on terror charges.

While judges at the Court of Appeal have said the deportation of Qatada, described as Osama Bin Laden's right-hand man in Europe, was long overdue, they also ruled that the danger he posed to the public was not 'a relevant consideration' under human rights laws.

Of course it's not.

However, I feel I might have an answer. Anti-social behaviour orders have come under quite a bit of flak lately, generally dismissed as a soft option for young hooligans who wear them as a badge of honour.

However, their credibility would be restored once and for all if they could protect us from this old reprobate.

No doubt most of you would agree that Mr Qatada is generally a pretty anti-social individual, involved in a wide variety of pretty anti-social behaviour traits. You know, blinking, breathing, giving motivational talks to suicide bombers, that sort of thing.

So why not make him subject to an anti-social behaviour order prohibiting him from doing any of these things. Every time he breathes or blinks, it's five years in the slammer.

No doubt the beaks will let him off, fall for the usual sob stories about him falling in with a bad crowd – let's face it, bad crowds don't come much worse than al Qaeda – and being determined to make a fresh start. But it's got to be worth a try.

❒❒❒❒❒❒

IT SEEMS winning a £3 million share of a lottery syndicate has not brought much happiness to former bus driver John Noakes.

Indeed John says life has been so tough for him and his family he is now planning to leave the UK, and begin a new life in, er, Cyprus.

Are you sure you've thought this one through, John?

❒❒❒❒❒❒

NOT so long ago, the global-warming fans were warning that unless we all ditched our patio heaters and cycled to work at the lentil processing plant, then we would all be burned to a crisp during the sizzling summers, or drown as the UK became submerged Twenty-Thousand Leagues Under The Sea.

Now they tell us we will experience a little more turbulence as we jet off on holiday in search of the sun.

It's progress of sorts, I guess.

❒❒❒❒❒❒

DOCTOR: "I'm afraid Aynuk, you are suffering from infertility."

Aynuk: "Is that hereditary?"

Feeding time – Cameron Taylor and Jodie Scott with the giraffes

Plastered – Megan Luckins and Mariam Ajaib are nurses for the day

Tucking in – Alexandra Thomas and Laura Liptrot eating cream cakes

Roll of honour – Ben Thompson gets ready to dive into the mountain

A man who makes dreams come true

Steve Ford works tirelessly to help fulfil the wishes of sick youngsters, as **SHARON MARISS** finds out

FROM eating cream cakes on a speedboat to diving into a mountain of toilet rolls – no dream is too big for charity volunteer Steve Ford who has made hundreds of children's wishes come true.

The 54-year-old works tirelessly to give youngsters,who have spent time in hospital, a day they will always remember.

Mr Ford has been running Wishing Well at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital for more than 20 years.

And he has now reached a major milestone after the 500th wish was granted as 15-year-old Emma Belfort got the chance to have a driving lesson.

Over the years, Mr Ford has granted a wide range of wishes, including Ben Thompson, who wanted to jump through a huge pile of toilet rolls and friends Alexandra Thomas and Laura Liptrot who ate cream cakes while zooming along on a speedboat.

Surprise

Children have met celebrities including golfer Justin Rose and singers Cliff Richard and Jason Donovan; ridden in helicopters and Ferraris and got close to their favourite animals at Dudley Zoo.

A particularly memorable wish for Mr Ford was when a boy asked to visit the Concorde cockpit.

After three unsuccessful attempts, his wish was hanging in the balance.

But then to their surprise it was fourth time lucky as the lad and his brother were instead taken for a flight on the famous plane.

Mr Ford visits the children's ward at the hospital twice weekly to give forms to the children asking if they would like a special wish granted. They are aimed at children aged seven or over but he says any wish is considered.

Driving dreams . . . Emma Belfort with, left, Steve Ford and, right, Safe4Life's Ian Haycock and Glenn McKenzie

Mr Ford, of Ash Crescent in Kingswinford, said: "If I can set up something the children want then I will.

"I just make a few calls. Sometimes I have to search for people a bit but, once I find them they're so helpful. I think they actually enjoy it too."

Medical hardships are things that Mr Ford knows a lot about.

Suffering from psoriasis and arthritis since childhood, he was forced to medically retire from his work at the Post Office, aged 21. He began driving a van but had to stop that when he needed hip replacements as a 32-year-old.

Volunteering at the hospital radio in 1983, however, brought him in touch with hospital staff and six years later he launched his charity.

Spin

"For a youngster in hospital away from their family and friends it can be a bit traumatic. I'm just trying to help," he said.

For teenager Emma who was the recipient of the 500th wish, taking a spin in a car was a memorable experience. The Redhill School pupil had wished for the driving lesson with Safe4Life after spending three days in A&E in February after a routine eye test discovered a condition called benign intracranial pressure on her brain.

Her mother Karen, aged 49, of Hadcross Grange, Stourbridge, said: "She was so excited about having her wish granted and was really looking forward to it. Afterwards she even wanted to drive my car. We're so thankful to Steve and to Safe4Life."

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

A BUSHBURY man celebrated a betting coup after winning £13,308 from a 10p stake. Steve Bonser was cheering on Wolves at Molineux when he found out the six horses he picked for the ITV Six bet had all won.

RAIN, rain and more rain led to a Bank Holiday weekend washout. The region suffered 4.7 inches of rain over the three-day holiday, which followed the third wettest April since records began in 1887.

A TOTAL of 25,000 walkers put their best feet forward to raise more than £200,000 for people with mental health issues. Organisers of the BRMB Walkathon were amazed at the result, which enabled Mencap to provide a home for adults in Birmingham.

1993...

A WOLVERHAMPTON teenager ran into a growing problem in his ambition to become a mounted police officer – his size 12 feet. Paul Swallow, aged 13, from Compton could not find riding boots to fit his long but narrow feet.

THERE was massive disruption on the Severn Valley Railway at Kidderminster after a Second World War grenade was found on the track. Army bomb disposal experts blew up the device in a controlled explosion causing the railway to close for five hours.

FORMER chef Christopher Bloor became the first man to qualify as a midwife in Staffordshire. Mr Bloor, aged 26, became one of less than 100 male midwives in Britain after passing an 18-month course at the North Staffordshire College of Nursing and Midwifery

2003...

BLACK Country twitchers were urged to stake out their back gardens to count house sparrows as part of a nationwide survey looking at the species' dramatic decline. The count was organised by the RSPB, who said bird numbers had halved in the preceding 25 years.

ROBOTS made at a Black Country factory proved a hit with movie makers after they were snapped up to star in a string of Hollywood blockbusters. Kuka Welding Systems and Robots in Halesowen supplied two robots for Tomb Raider 2 and 15 machines for the Thunderbirds movie.

BRAVE punters at a Sedgley pub swallowed lemons, chillies and garlic before snogging a fresh cod in a charity endurance challenge. The tasks were lined up for drinkers at The Swan Inn to raise money for Acorns children's hospice in Walsall.

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LETTERS

System let down beloved husband

MY husband had Alzheimer's and passed away on January 18.

We were together for 58 years and he was a loving and caring person who loved life. When I was unable to care for him at home I had to make the decision to have him put into a care home.

My husband was in his first care home for about two years and six months. I was unable to get help with the cost due to the money we had saved over the years of hard work. The cost of the care home was paid for out of our own savings.

I felt the home lacked the knowledge and understanding of my husband's illness and also a quality of care to the patients. I looked after my husband while I was there as much as I could. The overall care from the staff was very poor.

The last week at this care home my husband had a chest infection. That night I stayed until 10pm. Before I left I asked the staff if they would pop into his room regularly to make sure he was all right.

But that night they found him on the floor, he had fallen out of bed and he was taken to Russells Hall Hospital. We found out he had broken his hip.

He was in hospital for 10 weeks. In that time they did not get him out of bed to see if he could walk. The quality care he received in hospital was not the standard it should have been.

While this was happening I was being asked to look for another home as my husband's illness had progressed and he would need 24-hour care. He was moved to the new care home, which was £800 per week, this was paid for out of our savings.

My husband was only in the new nursing home for two weeks when I had a phone call to say they had taken him to Russells Hall Hospital.

When I arrived at the hospital, someone spoke to me to let me know what had happened. I asked if he was dead and the reply was yes. When they took me to the room where he was they had not made him presentable.

There are no words I can find to describe the pain and loss I am feeling. I have not stopped crying about all this.

I hope my letter can help others out there who have had the same experience I feel I need to do this for my husband.

MRS B HOMER
Stourbridge

Freedom of Press is essential

IT is essential that the freedom of the press remains. Britain has been recognised throughout the world for the bravery and audacity of its reporters.

In one fell swoop this Coalition government, aided and abetted by Labour, is determined to destroy centuries of campaigning journalism.

Love them or not, where would we be without the tenacity of Kate Adie or Simon Heffer to name just two?

The Leveson enquiry has proved a murky mess with Miss Carine Patry Hoskins, a member of his legal team, and celebrities' barrister, David Sherborne, allegedly having an affair whilst allegedly remaining impartial.

The rest of the world has recoiled in horror at the planned loss of freedom of speech and reporting.

DR PETER LE MAISTRE
Stourbridge

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
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E-MAIL
Stourbridge.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Boston bombs show why we need CCTV

THE law enforcement authorities in Boston have to be congratulated for catching the two alleged terrorists following the marathon bombs.

But they wouldn't have done this without the CCTV cameras in and around the area. Cameras have to be the best aids for the police, yet around areas in Birmingham, they have had to take them down because of protests from the communities. One has to ask: Why?

There should be a debate in this country about installing more cameras to assist the police in solving crime.

The critics will say, "Big brother is watching you", but if you have nothing to hide, you have got nothing to be frightened of.

I hope MPs put pressure on the Coalition government to debate it in Parliament.

R J WHITEHOUSE
Wartell Bank, Kingswinford

Thanks for treatment at hospital

I WISH to express my thanks to the paramedics and emergency services for their prompt and efficient action when I was taken ill recently.

I would like to thank the doctors, nurses and staff in Ward C1 at Russells Hall Hospital for all the kindness and consideration shown to me during my stay there.

My treatment and the food was exemplary, I could not have received better treatment anywhere.

JOYCE WOOLDRIDGE
Kingswinford

Is this double tax?

ON the so-called bedroom tax, people living in three or four bedroomhouses are already banded higher and pay more tax than those occupying small-er houses – so are they being taxed twice? Is this legal?

M MARTIN
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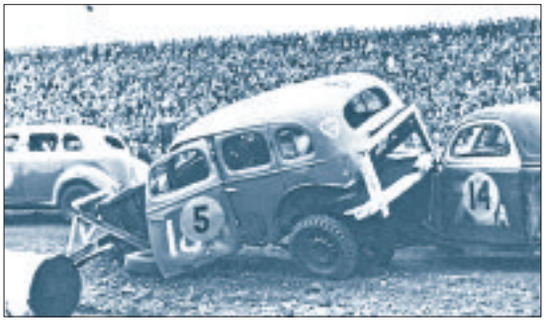
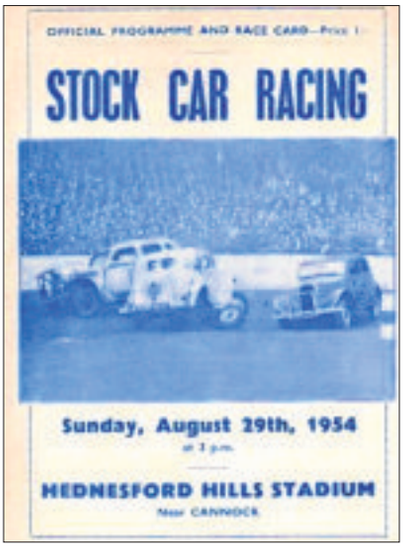
MEMORY LANE

Crowds gather to watch the stock cars at the newly prepared track. Picture by Conrad Roe courtesy of David Kipling of www.oldstox.com



Crashes weren't unknown and were often the reason that crowds turned up. Picture by Conrad Roe courtesy of David Kipling of www.oldstox.com

Bulldozers prepare the bottom of what was Scott House Reservoir. Picture by Conrad Roe courtesy of David Kipling of www.oldstox.com



A programme courtesy of David Kipling www.oldstox.com

Six decades of thrills and spills at raceway

by Tom Mason

THE smell of petrol and the sound of finely tuned engines have rung out at Hednesford Hills Raceway for 60 years.

During that time, thousands have watched racers go head- to-head in a show of burning rubber and crunching steel.

The sport of stock car racing really took off in the 1950s and more and more tracks began to spring up around the country as its popularity grew.

New locations for tracks were always being sought and in 1952 Claude Roe decided to use the disused Scott House Reservoir as a racetrack.

The reservoir which had been empty of water for more than 40 years, was quickly pegged out and stands erected around its outer edge. With racers flying around the shale track in modified saloon cars the racing would often get quite messy with crashes and spills.

During the next few years, as the track's popularity grew, Claude began to host other events there including live acts such as chart-topper Ruby Murray.

But its popularity began to decline as race fans went to better established tracks.

However it was at this point that legendary racer Bill Morris stepped in to give the track its second life. Left without a track following the closure of Tamworth raceway Bill could see the potential in Hednesford and approached the new owners Cannock Chase Council to see if he could buy it. Building work at the track began in the winter of 1961 and was completed in the summer the following year. By June 16, the cars were lining up on the track for the first race as part of the F1 stock car series.

In the following year Bill introduced hot rod to the UK crowds which was based loosely on America's NASCAR series.

Highly modified versions of everyday saloon cars took to the newly re-surfaced track flying round at incredible speeds. This proved very popular and the track really took off.

Hednesford would continue to rise in popularity during the 60s and 70s and in later years Bill passed the reins over to his son Martin and Philip Bond who set up Incarace which runs the track today.

Early stands that only stood in certain section of the tracks. Picture by Conrad Roe courtesy of David Kipling of www.oldstox.com

The reservoir soon after it was discovered as an ideal track location. Conrad Roe courtesy of David Kipling of www.oldstox.com

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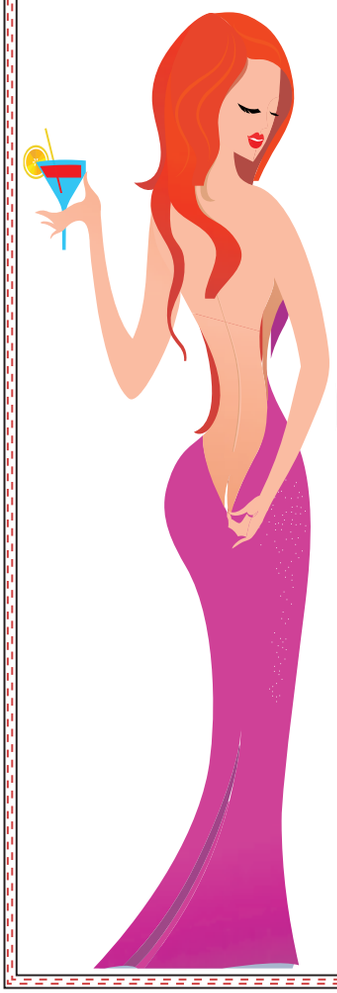

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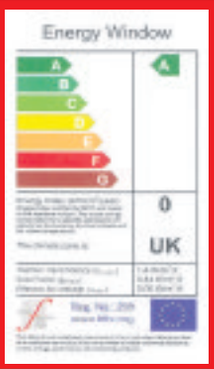

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NEWS

Tribute to stalwart of theatre who died at 73

A THEATRE company'a new production will will pay tribute to a long-serving member from Stourbridge who died in March

Oldbury Rep will dedicate its performance of Curtain up on Murder to the memory of Tom Bird, who died at Russells Hall Hospital on March 20, aged 73.

Mr Bird was made a life member of the organisation in 1989, having appeared in 58 productions and directed six shows over nearly 50 years.

Oldbury Rep spokesman Alan Wood said: "He was one of the company's best actors, much loved by members and audiences alike.

"I don't remember ever having a cross word with him. He was just so laid back about everything.

"He was always lovely to work with. You knew if you got Tom on board it would be a great performance. He was a real character."

The former taxi driver's last performance was as Mr Granger in a 2007 production of Are You Being Served?

His wife Sandra and daughter Toni continue to perform with the company and Toni will play the part of Sylvia in this month's production.

Mr Wood said: "We send our condolences to them and his son Nick."

Curtain up on Murder, a whodunit, will play at the Barlow Theatre in Spring Walk, Langley, from May 11 to 18, excluding the Sunday.

Tickets cost £8 with concessions at £7, or £6 on the Monday and Tuesday. To book, call 0121 552 2761.

Former Oldbury Rep member Tom Bird, who died in March

Building work will cut places to park

THE number of car parking spaces in Dudley town centre will be reduced as work to build a new advanced technology centre for Dudley College begins this summer.

Almost 80 spaces of the 230-space Priory Road car park will make way for the college's advanced manufacturing and engineering base.

As part of the work, the college will resurface the car park's remaining 151 spaces before construction of the centre begins in July.

The college will offer 68 spaces at its Broadway and Wolverhampton Street sites to Dudley Council employees – the main users of the Priory Road site.

The provision will be made until the council opens a planned multi-storey car park in Tower Street.

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Metal thefts war sees fall in raids

THE war on metal theft in Wyre Forest is being won with the number of raids down by more than 70 per cent.

New figures reveal thieves struck 23 times in January to March, compared with 90 during the same period last year.

Police have been working to drive down the number of thefts in the district which has previously been plagued by raids on businesses, homes, churches and schools.

Hospitals and health centres, sports clubs and pubs have also been hit as raiders cash in on the rising price of scrap metal.

But West Mercia Police Superintendent Kevin Purcell said the number of thefts were falling. He said the Scrap Metal Dealers Bill passed in parliament in February, which placed tightened restrictions on the scrap metal industry, was one of the factors helping to reduce numbers.

Call to shop trolley dumpers

AROUND 20 shopping trolleys have been dumped at a Dudley beauty spot, prompting anger from councillors, who branded fly-tippers as irresponsible people who should be shopped.

The shopping trolleys were found strewn around Saltwells Nature Reserve, near Netherton and Quarry Bank.

Councillors have appealed to everyone using it to report any fly-tipping.

Supermarkets across the area have previously told of problems with trolleys being taken from stores.

Ward Councillor Bryan Cotterill said park wardens collected the latest haul of 20 trolleys from around the 247-acre reserve within the past fortnight.

He said the effort was wasting time and money for the council.

"There should be a lot more respect for the countryside in this area from certain people," he said.

"They are being very irresponsible to just keep dumping trolleys."

Pride

He said people should take more pride in their area after also spotting trolleys wedged on the embankments off Pedmore Road.

Councillor Cotterill urged people to back the council's campaign Love Your Community, that encourages people to report fly-tipping, graffiti and dog fouling.

Dudley Council's environment boss, Councillor Tracy Wood, said: "The people who dump these trolleys have no care or respect for their communities or environment.

"Saltwells in particular is a beautiful nature reserve and as a council we work hard to look after it.

"As part of our Love Your Community project we are looking for people to take ownership of their communities and do their bit to look after them.

By working together we can maintain areas like Saltwells for everyone to enjoy."

Warden Stephen Rowland at the site with Councillors Bryan Cotterill and Tracy Wood

Jobs created at training centre

A RECRUITMENT firm has opened training centre in Kidderminster. Seven jobs have been created at the eResponse Recruitment offices in Church Street.

The Worcestershire firm, which has offices in Worcester and Redditch, has invested £40,000 in the new site.

The training centre can cater for up to 70 people a day and will offer qualifications including health and safety, security, manual handling, fire safety, first aid and administration.

Kidderminster branch manager Amy Byng said: "Our move not only boosts the local job market, but through our unique training centre, people can learn with us and then find jobs and placements in the specific sectors they have trained in. It's all about helping local employers place the right people into the right vacancies."

Facelift for hospital's family room

Lead nurse Lynn Thompson with bank mortgage consultant Josh Watchorn, fundraiser Karen Phillips and bank manager Kulvinder Kullar

A HOSPITAL waiting room used by patients' families has been given a much-needed £3,000 facelift after staff received donations towards the improvement scheme.

New carpets have been laid, walls painted and furniture installed in the Relatives Room at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

Staff members have long wanted to improve the room.

An appeal for donations was recently launched and £3,000 has been raised for the improvements to take place. And the scheme was given a major boost after receiving £1,000 from the Yorkshire Bank.

Staff hope to install facilities for making hot drinks on completion.

Hospital fundraising co-ordinator Karen Phillips said it was used by families awaiting news of patients.

She said: "We are so pleased this work has been carried out and want to thank everyone who has donated to the scheme."

Careless motorists warned of theft risk

POLICE officers blitzed more than 80 Stourbridge streets to warn people about leaving valubles on show in their unsecured cars.

They found 74 vehicles unlocked with 17 items such as laptops, tools, DVD screens, iPods and sat-navs in full view of potential thieves.

Another 11 secure vehicles had valuables on view in the Oldswinford and Old Quarter areas.

Pc Ryan Gardener said: "While we have seen a slight increase in vehicle crime, total crime in the borough is at an all time low, with 1,242 fewer victims of crime compared to the same period last year."

Firm is told its figures on empty shops are wrong

COUNCIL bosses have invited officials who ranked Dudley top of the table for empty shops for a fact-finding visit, after claiming the ratings are inaccurate.

They have written to the Local Data Company asking their statisticians to re-evaluate their findings.

The company said 32.4 per cent of shops were empty in Dudley town centre – the highest number for similar sized towns in the country. But council leaders were dismayed, saying the rating was actually around 18 per cent, based on its own surveys.

They claim the firm, which analyses retail statistics use outdated boundaries and flawed methodology.

Deputy council leader, Councillor Shaukat Ali, who is also the borough's regeneration chief, said: "We don't want to have one vacant unit in any of our towns and we are working hard to support existing businesses and to attract new ones.

"However, the inaccurate figures that make big headlines are not doing anyone any favours at all."

He added: "We hope they can come and work with our town centre officers to see what we are doing and to re-evaluate their boundaries and methodology in order to produce more accurate findings."

The firm was unavailable for comment.

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NEWS

Restaurant at former bank order of the day

A FORMER bank in Stourbridge has been transformed into a £250,000 restaurant serving up cuisine from around the world.

by Adam Thompson

Council officials have given the go-ahead for an alcohol and music licence for the premises in Lye High Street paving the way for bosses to open the doors.

Ghulam Namdar, who is the boss of the venue called Rose, said it could welcome its first customers as soon as this week.

He said the building, formerly Barclays Bank's opposite Christ Church, has undergone a £250,000 revamp since it was purchased in 2010.

It will seat almost 150 dinners and offer food from around the world –among which will be Indian, Chinese, Italian and Mexican.

It emerged during the meeting at Dudley Council House that the authority had received two objections to the restaurant over fears of anti-social behaviour and a planning issues.

Despite this the licence was granted.

A previous application for the former-bank to be turned into a pizzeria was condemned by residents concerned over parked cars clogging up the high street.

Chair of the committee Councillor Hilary Bills explained the decision, she said: "We did receive representations from two local residents who raised concerns of problems in the area which is nothing directly from the premises.

"The other was a planning issue but this is not an issue for this committee to decide on. Therefore the application is granted."

Mr Namdar said after the hearing: "I'm delighted by this outcome. I bought the building in 2010 for around £250,000 and I've spent another £250,000 carrying out work to it.

"The centre of Lye is a popular area for places to eat and I'm hoping to offer something different."

Archer targets school

Paralympic archer Mel Clarke with nine-year-old Awais Agur, who is wearing her Olympic silver medal

A PARALYMPIC archer who won a medal at the London games aimed her sights on inspiring the next generation during a school talk. Silver medalist Mel Clarke, visited Jesson's CE Primary School, Dudley, to tell the children the story of her rise to medal glory.

Around 400 children were captivated by tales of how she used her own determination to overcome an illness following which she was told she would never be able to do archery again. Clarke, aged 31, from Norwich, contracted Lyme disease from an infected bite in 2003 which left her paralysed and partially blind.

The visit was as part of the school's participation in the Be the Best You Can Be campaign which is a national project which aims to use the achievements from the games to inspire children. Headteacher Lucy Griffiths said: "Children who successfully complete this programme will be awarded a medal from the Royal Mint."

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business Factfile

Company

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Type of Business

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Established

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Who's In Charge?

Mark Rogers

Location

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Telephone

01384 404455

Website

www.caneandpatio.co.uk

A former clothing factory in Kingswinford has seen many transformations over the decades but none have been quite as exciting and dramatic as what it has seen over the last six months. Cane Furniture Studio, situated on the Dawley Trading Estate, Stallings Lane are celebrating this latest transformation with an early May Bank Holiday Open Weekend inviting customers old and new to visit the studio to experience their 'Fusion of Cane Furniture and Art-Forms' event.

The location has been occupied as a local family business for more than five decades and it began in 1920 as Charles Fellows (Dudley) Ltd. Owner Diana Cope said "Since Grandfather took on this first unit to be built at Dawley Trading Estate in 1956, our whole family were involved in it as a clothing factory until 1999. It is now transformed to a furniture outlet and was re-launched in September 2012 with new stock and a change of concept." Diana has recently completed a BA and has seized the challenge of introducing Contemporary Art alongside furniture as a holistic creation of a vibrant space. She added "This unique atmosphere is not experienced in other furniture retail stores. Putting our own choice of fabrics and wall-art together, with fresh flowers in one living space is a very fundamental idea which people have been expressing since cave men drew on walls. At Cane Furniture Studio there is a brilliant in-house re-cover service offered and a carefully chosen range of lighting and affordable art for sale. The emphasis is on visitors experiencing the whole package personally, which is entirely different from shopping online. Our future plans are to create a gallery space where local artists and photographers can show their work and demonstrate personal skills." The Bank Holiday weekend promises to be packed with 'Managers Special Offers' with the Team on hand offering their expertise. On Monday 6th May the event includes the demonstration of creating jewellery by Pascale Bigot, a well known local artist. She will also be exhibiting original work with Paul Langford, a Birmingham based artist interested in how the natural world influences man's own space and Diana herself who focuses on how nature colonises surfaces, mostly by 'Doodles' with floral studies by Jackie Eddy.

So two definite dates for your diary are Saturday the 4th and Monday 6th May, why not go along and have fun with the team at Cane Furniture Studio, you will hardly believe your eyes when you see the choice they have on offer at affordable prices - meaning return visits will certainly be on the cards!

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NEWS

Rachael is on course to land her dream job

A COURSE at Stourbridge College has helped Rachael Platt find a dream job.

Rachael completed an employability course at the college's Black Country Skills Shop at the Merry Hill Centre.

She landed a job as a children's representative for holiday company Thomson and jetted off last mionth to start her new role.

Working in partnership with Black Country Jobcentre Plus, the staff at Skills Shop helped five local people to prepare for interviews with Thomson and its sister company First Choice.

Thomson and First Choice, launched its largest overseas recruitment drive at the beginning of November, to fill 900 brand new overseas roles.

The holiday company has more staff based around the world than any other, and was looking to recruit holiday advisors and resort team leaders to sports coaches, children's representatives and entertainers to be based in short haul and medium haul destinations overseas.

Struggled

Rachael, aged 20, of Kingswinford, said: "As a former Stourbridge College student, having studied Childcare Level 3, I've always wanted to work with children but struggled to find full time work in the sector.

"After a series of part time jobs, I signed on at Stourbridge Jobcentre Plus and my advisor made me aware that Thomson was recruiting for childcare representatives to work in their holiday resorts abroad.

"I attended their information day where a TUI representative gave an overview of the company, outlining the skills required for the job and I jumped at the chance to apply for one of the vacancies. I'm thrilled to have been successful following my interview."

Celebration – Samantha Dimmick, Rachael Platt and Alison Mains

Alison Mains, employer advisor at Stourbridge Jobcentre Plus, said: "We were pleased that we managed to attract 12 unemployed local people to the Information Day which was held at the Skills Shop during the campaign for childcare representatives.

"Rachael fulfilled all of the criteria in terms of qualifications and her determination to succeed."

Samantha Dimmick, job coach at Stourbridge College's Black Country Skills Shop, said: "We put together a course designed to help candidates prepare for the application and interview process.

"We're delighted that Rachael has been successful and wish her luck."

For details about opportunities at Thomson and First Choice or to apply, visit www.tuitraveljobs.co.uk

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NEWS

Academy's revamp plan boosted by £500k grant

AN academy in Kingswinford has scooped more than £500,000 to help transform ageing classrooms and create extra teaching space.

by Andrew Turton

Work will start this summer on the project at The Kingswinford School in Water Street, thanks to the grant from the Education Funding Agency.

A new food technology classroom will be installed along with a science lab and modern drama studio.

Headteacher Bronwyn Hedley said the staff and governors were delighted to receive the cash and were raring to get the transformation under way.

Benefit

"This is an historic moment for the school and we cannot wait to see work start," she said.

"These projects will enhance the learning environment of our students and will benefit their education and lives for years to come."

In total, £562,000 was received from the Education Funding Agency after school business manager Gill White submitted an application four months ago.

A science lab will be created by converting the present food technology classroom.

Food technology will be moved to incorporate it with the design and technology block.

The new drama studio will have the latest lighting technology and other modern features to allow the students to learn the latest theatre techniques and performance skills.

Pupils studying textiles will benefit from a refurbished classroom. Meanwhile, outside the main school buildings, three new classrooms will be built in a single-storey block for English lessons, with IT equipment fitted.

The school hopes the work will be completed by March next year.

Trigger goes misty

Keeper Sam Grove spray Trigger the rhinoceros iguana

TRIGGER the rhinoceros iguana cannot get enough of shower time at Dudley Zoo. When keepers mist his quarters in the Reptile House with water for humidity he makes sure he gets covered with the cool spray.

Section leader Pat Stevens said: "Trigger loves the spray and rises up so he gets covered all over – he even tries to grab the water bottle from our hands."

The species, which is native to Cuba and the Dominican Republic, is classed as vulnerable due to habitat destruction and invasive species.

Their name derives from a horn-like growth on their snout, which resembles a rhino horn.

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NEWS

Cadets join the Last Post ceremony at Menin Gate

Members of the Air Cadets take part in the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate during their battlefields tour

AIR cadets from the Midlands took an emotional trip to the war graves of Ypres to remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

A group of 48 cadets aged 13 to 20 visited the First World War battlefields of Belgium to find out more about the atrocities that took place there as a result of trench warfare.

The trip was organised by 26-year-old Laura Croxford of the 223 Halesowen Squadron. She first visited the region when she was 16.

She said: "I learnt so much from the trip that I wanted to take other young people to give them the same experience.

"It went fantastically well and the cadets had loads of great opportunities to learn about the history of World War One. I think it gave them some real background which will be useful when they parade on Remembrance Day."

Cadet Corporal James Alder and Cadet Sergeant Chloe Brown

The group visited several war graves at Tyne Cot Commonwealth and Langemark Germany cemetery's, as well as battlefields including Pond Farm, Hill 60 and the Death Trench. They also took part in the Last Post ceremony, where British soldiers who died at the Battle of Ypres have been commemorated every day at 8pm since July 1 1928.

Cadet Sergeant Chloe Brown, of the 223 Halesowen Squadron, laid a wreath on behalf of the Royal Air Force Cadets and the Royal British Legion.

She said: "The trip was really thought provoking and made me think more about how young a lot of the soldiers in World War One actually were and what they gave up for our future."

Cadet corporal James Alder of the 2497 Cosford Squadron, also laid a wreath on the grave of his great uncle, Private Henry Charles Alder, who died on June 20 1917 aged 20. He is buried at the Mendinghem Military Cemetery.

The cadets are now planning another trip to mark the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War.

Miss Croxford added: "We will definitely run the trip again as the cadets were so enthusiastic afterwards."

There are squadrons throughout the region including Halesowen and Dudley. To join or for more information visit www.raf.mod.uk/aircadets.

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Runners pound the marathon for pounds

Andy Page with his children Holly and Edward, who helped him raise cash for Starlight Children's Foundation, after he had completed the London Marathon

RUNNERS from across Dudley are celebrating after completing the London Marathon just days after the tragedy that rocked Boston.

Helen Small, aged 41 was one of them to complete the 26.2 miles, finishing in 4hrs 55 mins.

The special needs teacher from Wordsley had trained hard for the marathon, fitting her running practice in between her busy schedule as a fitness instructor and volunteer at Kewford Eagles Football club.

Lynn Boleyn, a charity trustee of the club, said "Kewford are very proud of Helen and we would like to congratulate her on finishing the marathon and raising much needed funds for two very worthwhile causes." Helen has already raised more than £120 for NSPCC and Action Heart through the website www.virginmoneygiving.com/HelenSmall.

She said: "It was a fantastic experience and I was so excited to run the marathon. The support from the spectators was amazing, there wasn't a single gap in the crowd."

Great

Andy Page a sales manager from Dudley, ditched his work suit for his running gear to complete in support of Starlight Children's Foundation, a charity that fulfils the wishes of seriously ill children.

The 42-year-old father of two, managed to finish in 4hrs 29mins. He said: "It was a great day for me as it was my first marathon. The crowds and the atmosphere were brilliant."

He added that he did not have any worries prior to the marathon other than not finishing, despite the attacks in Boston carried out days before.

"Following the events of the week before I was more determined than ever to do it," he said.

Just days before heading of Andy's two young children Holly and Edward helped their dad raise money with a special non-uniform day at Russell Hall Schoo, Overfield Road.

So far Andy has raised £921.20 towards his target of £1,300. To help him raise more visit uk.virginmoney-giving.com/Pagey or call Starlight directly on 020 7262 2881.

Helen Small at the London Marathon finishing line

Bar set for a Locke-in

REALITY TV stars Dan Osbourne and James Locke, who found fame on ITV2's The Only Way is Essex, will meet fans and pose for photographs at a Kidderminster nightclub on Saturday.

They are the latest celebrities to appear at Carters Bar, Oxford Street, which has already seen Britain's Got Talent finalists Stavros Flatley and Geordie Shore's Gary Beadle, visit.

Owner Mark Carter said he was expecting a full house. "Last month we had Hollyoaks star Rob Norbury, and the event was a huge success," he said.

Fresh talks over taxi colour rule

TAXI drivers will hold fresh talks with council officials in Dudley in a bid to end a dispute over colours of private hire vehicles in the borough. Around 100 taxis brought the town to a standstill as they staged a go-slow drive past Dudley Council House recently.

by Andrew Turton

They were battling against Dudley Council's policy of only allowing white coloured private hire taxis to be used by firms in the borough.

The protest drew anger from some councillors who said the policy was in place to allow people to safely identify fully-licensed private taxis.

But members of Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association argue that white cars are more expensive because of their popularity.

They say members have resorted to resprays on some car in order to comply costing hundreds of pounds more.

These costs are added to already high insurance premiums and fuel prices, group members claim. More than 1,000 people signed a petition rallying for a second colour.

The association has also argued that customers were used to seeing both white and silver private hire vehicles due to neighbouring boroughs having different colours.

However, they lost a vote of Dudley Council's taxi committee members last month and are now threatening legal action.

Taxi association chairman Shaz Saleem today said the group will talk again with the council to "find a suitable resolution"

Mr Saleem apologised for the disruption caused by the protest but said members wanted to get their views across.

Car enthusiast's crash death ruled accidental

A PENSIONER died when his car crashed into a tree in foggy conditions near his home, an inquest heard.

Philip Luscott-Evans, aged 78, who was known by his middle name Maurice, died on January 10 after he lost control of his car on the A451 Stourbridge to Kidderminster road, opposite the Park Gate pub. It is believed the retired advertising consultant misjudged the junction, minutes from his home near Kidderminster, due to fog on the night.

The crash happened at around 12.40am as Mr Luscott-Evans, who lived in Hurcott Road, Hurcott, was driving his red Vauxhall Agila. The car collided with a tree off the carriageway and he was pronounced dead at the scene.

Multiple

Pc Graham Powell, a collision investigator, said there were no defects in the road, while vehicle examiner Robert Beals said the car had no problems.

A toxicology report showed widower Mr Luscott-Evans had no alcohol or drugs in his system. A post-mortem by Dr Paul Geddy, confirmed he had suffered no medical emergencies before the collision.

Worcestershire Coroner Geraint Williams recorded a verdict of accidental death at an inquest in Stourport on Friday. He said the cause of death was multiple injuries.

Mr Luscott-Evans was vintage car enthusiat and had a Lea Francis and a Bean car.

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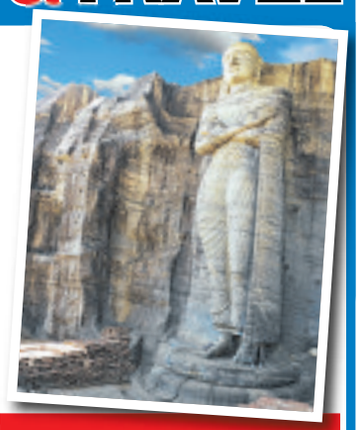
Some of the other included tours are to the 600 foot granite tower called Sigiriya, or the Lion Rock, known for its ancient murals of 'cloud maidens'; to Kandy, Sri Lanka's last Royal capital; to the amazing cave temples of Dambulla, a UN World Heritage site; and to a well-known tea estate and spice garden, staying at the four-star Grand Hotel, originally the summer home of one of the Governors of Ceylon.

For a different sort of experience, two nights are reserved at the Safari Hotel, which has a pool, bar and restaurant overlooking the Tiffa Lake. Just 45 minutes from the Yala National Park this is the base for an early morning start to the jeep safari in the hope of seeing leopard, elephants, saltwater crocodiles, wild boar, sloth bears, monitor lizards and a huge variety of birdlife. The three-star superior Palms Hotel in the beach resort of Beruwela is the final port of call, allowing for two days of rest and relaxation before the journey home.



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NEWS

Rush deal saves firm threatened with closure

A MULTI-MILLION pound rescue deal put together by three entrepreneurs saved 70 jobs and created more than a dozen more.

The deal turned a loss-making engineering company into a profitable success story.

by Simon Penfold

A phone call and a deadline saw businessmen Neil Higgitt, Mike Wright and Peter Hargreaves step in to save Quality Metal Products (QMP), a locker and workbench manufacturer in Lye. Mr Higgitt said: "The American owners contacted me and made it clear that they were prepared to close the manufacturing plant within weeks.

Deadline

"Our management team jumped into action to save this great manufacturer. We had just six weeks to bring the deal together. We have a great team, and the deal was done within the deadline."

Since sealing the deal last summer, the three men have invested yet more money in modernising the company's Timmins Road factory, and recruiting a dozen new staff.

Two more are being sought to work in the new 25,000 sq ft warehouse that is being fitted out. The company, which is understood to have been losing up to £80,000 a month before the takeover, is back in the black and notching up strong sales.

Neil Higgitt and Mike Wright had worked at QMP before leaving to take over Workplace Products, in Aldridge, in 2004, with Peter Hargreaves. Workplace Products is an industrial mail order catalogue company and has grown to become one of QMP's biggest customers.

Mr Higgitt said: "We are responsible for about £400,000 of their turnover, but the total turnover at QMP is around £5.5 million."

Lawyer Peter Waldron who helped with the deal said: "We were delighted to be part of the rescue plan."

Match of the day is a hospice fundraiser

Front, from left, Vicki Rowles and Sally Insley of the hospice, with, back from left, lottery manager CharlotteCameron, bar stewards Steve and Sharon Dimmock, goalkeeper Matthew Lowe and lottery officer Amanda Bowen

A TEAM of football legends came together for a special match to raise money for a hospice.

Former Aston Villa player and 1982 European Cup Winner Ken McNaught spearheaded the team of West Midlands All Stars that included Lee Hendrie.

They played a team of Stourbridge Old Boys at Stourbridge Football Club. Stourbridge Old Boys were the surprise winners 4-2, and more than £6,000 was raised for Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice.

At the event there were also stalls, a crossbar challenge and an auction with lots including a football shirt signed by 1966 World Cup hero Geoff Hurst.

Former centre-half Ken McNaught made more than 207 apparences in a claret and blue shirt, and went on to play 42 times for West Bromwich Albion.

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CLUB NEWS

Talk was on silk painting

K'FORD LADIES SOCIAL CIRCLE

ACTING chairman Audrey Phipps welcomed members to the meeting at the Royal British Legion. There was new member, a visitor and guest speaker Clive Garner.

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and The Dudley Cancer Support Group sent thank you letters for donations received, and a letter was received from Edna Summers for the card and flowers she had received during her recent illness.

An update on the forthcoming trip to Moreton-in-the-Marsh was given. Chris Groves will organise a luncheon later in the year.

Val Thacker agreed to run the sales table for the next two meetings asking members to be more supportive as any money collected was for the benefit of the group.

Mr Garner shared his enthusiasm for the hobby he has enjoyed for 18 years – painting on silk. As he painted he told the group of the history of silk, explained techniques and described the tools of his art – paints and brushes, and also aids to drying such as a hairdrier, a microwave and a steamer.

His talk was funny, informative and interesting and he had several very pretty, unusual, hand-made items for sale. Iris Hemfrey gave the vote of thanks.

Linda Taylor and May Raven won the raffle.

Flower group blooms with a spring display

Sedgley Morning TWG's floral arts group meets for its spring arrangement

SEDGLEY MORNING TWG

AFTER the business of the AGM, where the committee agreed to stand for a further year, a charity morning was held.

Members took part in fundraising for the Eve Appeal for ovarian cancer by buying refreshments and raffle tickets for a tea cosy which had been made to look like a sheep by the daughter of one of the members.The charity morning raised a total of £130.

During the April meeting, a competition was held to design a name badge.

The floral arts group made lovely spring arrangements using daffodils – a really cheerful sight. At the next meeting the arrangement will be "orchids in a hurry". Maureen and John Harper gave an interesting quiz accompanied by slides and music. They showed many interesting villages, buildings, churches and grand houses from across the West Midlands, Worcestershire and Herefordshire. The task was to guess where they all were.

Members enjoyed a recent visit to the Grand Theatre to see Cats.The Bowls Group starts its new season on May 8.

Fakes, fraud and forgers

GRANGE 'E' TWG

CHAIRMAN Hazel Smith presided over the meeting at Grange Court on April 2.

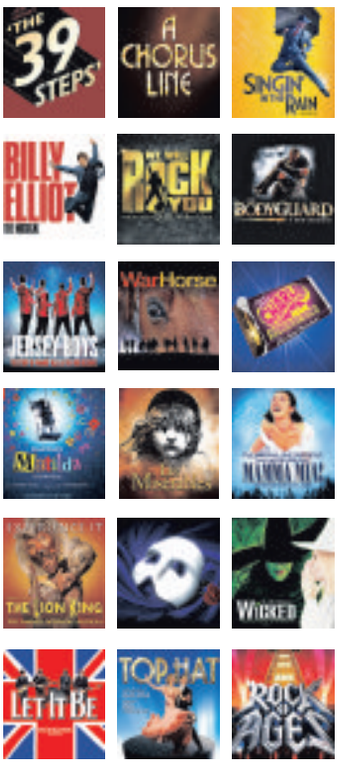
Secretary Jean Williams read the minutes of the last meeting, which were accepted and signed.

She said the guild would be entering two teams into the Federation annual quiz on June 3. Marlene O'Hanlon announced she would be starting a luncheon club.

Guest speaker Graham Sutherland gave an interesting talk on fakes, fraud and forgers. A collection of loose copper totalling £35 was donated to Lye and Wollescote disabled club.

Gill Attwood announced the birthday lunch would be held at the Vine Inn, Clent, on June 25. The guild is recruiting new members. Call Jean on 01384 832439.

star extra TRAVEL London Theatre Breaks



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WIDOW young hearted 70's, N/S, likes reading, concerts, gardening, meals out, WLTM younger gentleman with similar interests. Stafford area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404177**

SHARON medium built lovely, 33yrs, pale complexion, nice eyes, feminine, outgoing, confident, enjoys varied interests, WLTM all round nice guy for adult relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403345**

KATIE, sensual curvy figure, well educated, attractive and very adventurous, seeks male for inititmate evenings in. Can accommodate, no strings, fun only. **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box No: 325325**

CAROL South African lonely heart 37yrs, looking for fun with mature gent 50plus, likes dining in/out, discretion assured/appreciated. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403337**

WIDOW seeking similar aged male to share holidays and weekends out. Car owner preferred. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 389795**

JANE 48yrs West Midlands, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, looking for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403949**

48YR old attractive female seeking local fun maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403947**

JANE attractive, seeking male for fun and friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403807**

KEELEY 18yr old slim broadminded blonde, blue eyes, enjoys most things in life, WLTM older guy for fun meets. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403581**

JULIE gorgeous 40, loves the outdoors, theatre, WLTM energetic open-minded fun male up to 60yrs who like me is very loving and tactile. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403571**

32YR old slim, dark haired, adventurous, creative, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753**

SENSUAL cuddly 32yr old professional looking for similar minded discreet male up to 40yrs for 1-2-1 fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404023**

ELIZABETH 33, curvy attractive blonde, likes walking, socialising, meals out, entertaining, WLTM well educated nice male 50-60's for nice times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403937**

HI I'm Jayne very pretty brunette, stylish, fun, loves the 60's, fine wine/restaurants, seeks professional gent for mutual life enhancement. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403749**

KERRY, student nurse, just 19yrs. Very naughty girl! Call to hear what I've got to say, ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 228864**

LISA 38yrs, tall slim attractive, broadminded, easygoing, loves cooking, homemaking, nice wine looking for very discreet solvent male 50-90yrs to pamper me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403733**

TINA fun loving single mum who enjoys most things in life, seeking happy guy with GSOH for meals in, dates out, possible romance and adult companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403567**

AMY 19yr old single female looking for much older naughty male for discreet fun times only. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403381**

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383325**

KIND romantic female, 50, seeking a male to talk, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368429**

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651**

CARING lady, 52, brown hair/eyes, seeks male, 30-60 for socialising, meals out, cinema, music, sports and having a laugh. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392883**

LONG haired blonde, 37, enjoys meals out but would love to cook a romantic meal for the man of her dreams. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 361076**

TALL curvy female, 36dd, loves music, looking for fun and romance with dark male. Give me a call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 359238**

61YR old lady 5ft 2ins, medium build, long dark hair, smoker, seeks smart gent who wants to get out and about for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396409**

BIG is beautiful! Female looking for someone to share a life time of happiness with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368528**

SLIM fit, bubbly female can't wait to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367066**

ATTRACTIVE lady, GSOH, slim, dark hair, 50's, likes walks, films, art, meals out, seeks male with GSOH and similar interests for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399245**

CARLA 41, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 2ins, loving, seeking male who likes walks, cinema and romantic meals. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396127**

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852**

43YR old female, bubbly, down to earth, trustworthy, honest, caring, seeks male, 45 plus. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402945**

APRIL big bubbly 21yr old female who enjoys nights in/out, music, WLTM caring, loving older male, 30-45yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402789**

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852**

BIG bubbly black female, single mum, looking for male for nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392501**

DAWN attractive, slim female, 45, N/S, no ties, WLTM tall, fit male with get up and go attitude towards life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375825**

YOUNG looking, pretty female, 40, brunette, slim, no ties, N/S, seeks attractive, refined male for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 313115**

33YR old black haired, medium built, 5ft 3ins female seeking soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 389799**

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SARAH 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979**

GRACE Jones lookalike, black lady, 53, 5ft 11ins, OHAC, WLTM male, 45-65, 6ft plus for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397681**

35YR old female, seeks intelligent, down to earth male, 50-75 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388297**

FEMALE looking for gent, 65-70, caring, loving and independent. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378295**

62YR old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394106**

BERNIE Beautiful black lady with no ties seeks her King, curvy, intelligent, feminine and all you will ever need, what are you waiting for? Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402991**

ALISON 37 animal loving female who enjoys a quiet life, cooking, seeks older respectful male 42-60yrs to enjoy meals out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402793**

HI I am Sara 21, a petite single mum, sporty, caring and looking for reliable, well groomed male 30-40yrs for adult 1-2-1. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402771**

JEANETTE 35, blonde blue eyed attractive active nurse who really cares about people, WLTM someone genuine and honest to fall in love with. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402655**

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LISA 30's tall slim beauty looking for dining partner to romance, pamper and appreciate me in return for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402645**

GAIL 52, blonde hair, 5ft 2ins, likes nights out, seeks N/S male, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402041**

LOVING caring young 68yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim-medium build, size 12, smoker, seeks slim, well dressed guy with GSOH for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399923**

LIZ 42, black, divorced, seeking male, 44-54 for kind, sincere, honest, open relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400949**

CLARE 38, single mum, curvy hour glass, loves to be tactile, OHAC, WLTM caring male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399047**

CAROLINE attractive, kind, caring, 43, seeking kind, caring male for LTR, 45-50. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396837**

MANDY 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360317**

NATALIE 30, attractive, size 12, black, seeking male for romantic fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387753**

NICKY looking for attractive male 48-55yrs for fun, good times and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388393**

CURVY red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 377432**

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363428**

SUE 5ft 2ins female, brown hair/eyes, loving, likes music, socialising, films, good times, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393223**

IRENE 55, blonde hair, brown eyes, loving, caring, genuine, N/S, lots of love to give, seeks male, 55-60 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392807**

BLONDE attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818**

PROFESSIONAL tall, slim, attractive, bubbly, genuine lady, seeks tall, professional, genuine guy, 40-50. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 215244**

SLIM curvy blonde, 44, professional, seeks tall, professional male, 40-50 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 171231**

LOUISE 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, average looks, likes reading, meals out, cinema, theatre, quiet pubs, honest, genuine, kind, caring, GSOH, seeks male, 42-58. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391308**

FUN loving lady, 56, outgoing, honest, caring, seeks caring male, 55-60 for friendship, possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391192**

GENUINE female, 36, brunette, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, fun, outgoing, adventurous, GSOH, looking for tall, honest, genuine male for good companion, dates and romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388327**

YVONNE looking for Christian male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391135**

FEMALE looking for stocky male, 50-60 to share a happy life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386169**

BLACK attractive female, 34, slim, N/S, seeks genuine male for friendship, maybe more. Holby. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367021**

SINGLE MEN

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BLACK guy 67, feels 50, looks 40, fit, active, seeks N/S, genuine, caring female with GSOH, 63-70yrs for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404255**

RETIRED 45yr old male, likes travel home/abroad, eating out, WLTM caring lady for friendship, maybe more. Shropshire. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404237**

BRIAN 60's, ordinary man, strong needs, seeks affectionate lady for close friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396765**

ATTRACTIVE male, 55, seeks older female, 50-70 for close, adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397189**

60'S male, medium build, fit, high drive, seeks West Midlands lady who needs occasional male evening/weekend company. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 381307**

MALE 73yrs fit, N/S, OHAC, WLTM slim lady of similar age for days out, holidays and walking. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403895**

ANDY 46, looking for female, 40 plus for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403869**

TALL blue eyed 49yr old gent, N/S looking for soul mate, slim lady with no ties and plenty of love to give and receive, is that you? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404121**

KIND caring gent 41. 5ft 11ins, fit build, WLTM similar lady for friendship, maybe more, likes music, the outdoors and eating out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404055**

COVENTRY male, single, 6ft 1ins, 42, caring, GSOH, loves animals, Tai Chi, seeks female, 20-55, single mums ok, any nationality for nice times in/out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384677**

MIKE 43yrs, 5ft 10ins, short brown hair, blue eyes, loving, caring personality, very genuine, WLTM lady 20-40yrs for LTR. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403901**

MIKE 45, bored, seeks female, any age for adult fun and good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403461**

JOHN 59, 5ft 8ins, OHAC, GSOH, seeks lady, 46-55, likes meals out and in. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403273**

SINGLE male, 60, WLTM local lady with strong physical needs for regular contact with no commitment initially. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 377459**

TIGER Woods lookalike seeks mature, big, beautiful lady for fun and frolics. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403867**

29YR old male, likes holidays, cinema, clubs, seeks female for friendship and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403759**

PAUL 60, medium build, fit, virile with strong needs, WLTM West Midland lady for regular mutual pleasure. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 374821**

PATRICK 60's, single, likes sports, music, reading, seeks lady friend to share evenings/weekend meetings together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396053**

WEST Midlands single guy 60, strong, WLTM affectionate lady. your place or mine for uncommitted enjoyment. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396807**

ATTRACTIVE male, late 40's, seeks attractive female for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311713**

WARREN 60's, romantic, WLTM affectionate lady for evenings/weekend meetings and close friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392191**

32YR old slim, dark haired, adventurous, creative, caring, likes music, cycling, photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753**

VINCE 52, caring, seeking female for fun and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401683**

TALL dark, good looking male, 53, seeks attractive female for daytime fun and exciting times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393380**

ROBERT 72, young looking, retired carpenter, N/S, non drinker, seeks kind, black lady in Wolverhampton area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403641**

45YR old British Asian male, 5ft 9ins, slim-medium build, kind, caring, GSOH, likes romantic meals, nights in, films, music, walks, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403631**

45YR old British Asian male, 5ft 9ins, slim-medium build, kind, caring, GSOH, likes romantic meals, nights in, films, music, walks, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403631**

GARY kind, caring, seeks special lady, any age for fun times and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403585**

MICHAEL 50, nice eyes, seeking female companion for holidays and weekends away, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401479**

STEVE 63, tall, fit, young outlook, likes travel, socialising, holidays, N/S, seeks local lady, 55-60 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402931**

MALE 5ft 8ins, athletic, GSOH, seeks older lady for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402357**

GENUINE male, 54, own home, seeks female, any age for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368871**

SHROPSHIRE male, 53, tall, dark, attractive, seeks attractive female for fun and excitement, any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367373**

STEVE 54, attractive, seeks older lady, 55-75 for mutual adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399755**

MALE 47, 5ft 9ins, brown hair/eyes, slim-medium build, likes nights out, GSOH, seeks special female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 302861**

JIMMY 53 good looking, fit, genuine, honest, very loving and looking for the same in a woman. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397157**

TALL dark, attractive guy, 49, seeks attractive, younger female for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 316752**

MALE 60, strong needs, seeks similar lady for regular evening/weekend meetings. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384219**

DARREN young looking 37, likes pubs, clubs, cinema, meals out, cosy nights in, seeks female 18-37. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392049**

CARL 40, likes DVDs, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393766**

HARDWORKING 41yr old male, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403131**

KARL 40, fun loving, caring, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 389662**

GENUINE good looking male, 38, seeking genuine female, 25-45 for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392233**

DAVID 40, genuine, down to earth, seeking someone for nights out and great times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398889**

OPEN-MINDED blue eyed, dark haired loving male, seeks genuine, fun loving female for nights in/out and weekends away. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402313**

ROY 62, tall, fit, loyal, N/S, looking for that special lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397637**

ROMANTIC white male, 47, 5ft 11ins, seeks lady, likes meals out, holidays, cinema and keep fit, **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402243**

GAY SINGLES

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to meet or chat to other men, look no further.
TXT: **GAY247** to **60109**
www.localgaydate.co.uk

MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311892**

MEN TEXT FOR FUN!

*see t&c's below. No meetings implied or guaranteed. **Texts cost £1.50** per message Help Desk: **0844 445 7707**

I am a single girl lookin chat to men now **Text HANNA to 60109**

HI there, sick of lonely nights. be nice to have someone to chat to, i can talk for england so lets get started lol **Text TESS to 60109**

I love all kinds of music, especially live music and I love talking to new ppl. **Text MICHAEL to 60109**

Help....Help.....can u hear me???Im up here on the shelf an need a hand to get down :-D **Text STACY to 60109**

I am looking to talk to someone who shares similar passions and interests, who is down to earth and knows what they want from life **Text SANDRA to 60109**

Hi all im down to earth but dont suffer fools. im fiery and head strong im looking to talk to like minded ppl **Text PAULA to 60109**

Life can be so beautiful.... so lets talk about it.. looking for men to chat to now. **Text REBECCA to 60109**

IN a nut shell, Im a normal chilled, easy going girl with good morals & a sense of humour, Family & friends are very important to me.Looking to chat now. **Text AMY29 to 60109**

HEY just looking for people to chat to really, message me if you fancy it :) **Text CENDRA to 60109**

IF you want to know more about me all you have to do is ask!! :) **Text LUCY28 to 60109**

I enjoy spendin time with my niece and nephew,and my family.am a big animal lover very easy going person with gsoh **Text CAROLINA to 60109**

I'm only looking for someone to talk to late at night when all my work is done.. Need to be able to talk all night ;) lol **Text LOREEN to 60109**

I am an attractive and warm hearted girl who is always up for a good chat broaden my horizons. **Text BETHANY to 60109**

WOMEN TEXT FOR FUN!

*see t&c's below. No meetings implied or guaranteed. **Texts cost £1.50** per message Help Desk: **0844 445 7707**

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Premiere for stage version of Office

NETHERTON Arts Centre will host the world premiere of the stage version of hit TV show The Office, by permission of Ricky Gervais and Stephen Merchant.

See TV's David Brent, the petty and pompous Slough regional boss of paper merchants and colleagues Gareth the pedantic jobsworth, Tim and receptionist Dawn who are still secretly yearning for each other.

The show is on Wednesday May 8 until Saturday May 11 at 7.30pm. Tickets are £7 for adults and £6 concession.

Town Hall staging music of decades

BARRY Walker & Smackee are now touring with a new two hour presentation that combines the music of four of the greatest piano singer songwriters.

Barry Walker as the Piano Man along with his group Smackee, will perform five decades of the greatest hits from Neil Sedaka, Barry Manilow, Billy Joel & Elton John.

The afternoon show will be at Dudley Town Hall on Tuesday June 11 from 2pm and tickets are £11.00.

The show will run for around 2hrs 30mins.

Recreating soul

DUDLEY Town Hall is recreating the days of Blackpool Mecca, Wigan Casino, The Torch and The Twisted Wheel for Northern Soul fans on Saturday May 11 at 8pm. Tickets are £7.

The monsters of metal are making a comeback

BIRMINGHAM'S own rock prince of darkness Ozzy Osbourne will be back with his original band mates when legendary heavy metal outfit Black Sabbath come home for two gigs in their home city in the week before Christmas.

Black Sabbath, also featuring guitarist Tony Iommi and bassist Geezer Butler, were formed in Aston in 1967 and on June 10 release their first studio album since 1978's Never Say Die.

New album 13 has been produced by Rick Rubin. Drum duties have been taken by Rage Against The Machine's Brad Wilk, as original drummer Bill Ward is not joining the reunion.

Arena

As part of a UK December tour, Black Sabbath will play the LG Arena on the 20th before heading into the city centre for an NIA gig on the 22nd. Tickets start at £45.

Other metal highlights include Finland's Eurovision winning shock rockers Lordi at The Institute in Digbeth on May 10; rock veterans Deep Purple featuring Ian Gillan at the NIA on October 15; Florida's Alter Bridge with Shinedown and Halestorm at the NIA on October 17.

Two rock guitar legends are coming up with Joe Satriani at Wolverhampton Civic on June 13 and Joe Bonamassa at the NIA on September 27.

Coming home for two Birmingham concerts in December – Black Sabbath members Geezer Butler, Ozzy Osbourne and Tony Iommi

PM Hacker in a spin at the Grand

HIT West End play Yes, Prime Minister is being staged at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday.

The original writers of the classic BBC TV series, Antony Jay and Jonathan Lynn, have reunited for this production with a new satirical take on Whitehall.

Prime Minister Jim Hacker and his Cabinet Secretary Sir Humphrey Appleby are back, spinning out of control through the collapsing Euro and austerity measures.

Michael Fenton Stevens, from TV comedy Benidorm, will play Prime Minister Jim Hacker and Crispin Redman, fromLaw & Order: UK, will take the role of Sir Humphrey Appleby. Michael Matus will join the cast as Principal Private Secretary Bernard Woolley.

Sex and class in a power struggle

UK Touring Theatre bring a new version of August Strindberg's Swedish 19th century drama Julia to Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre on Tuesday evening. A flirtation between an aristocratic lady and her father's valet during a midsummer's eve party results in a ferocious power struggle and a battle of the sexes in this classic play.

The Wulfruna Street venue also hosts a staging of George Orwell's 1984 by Sell A Door on Wednesday evening.

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 4.05.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Ant and Dec

Britain's Got Talent
ITV, 7.15pm
More wannabe stars take to the stage in the hope they have what it takes to impress the judges. We've already seen a host of promising acts wow the masses, from shy The Voice reject Alice Fredenham, to former Generation Game hostess Francine Lewis. That coveted Royal Variety Performance slot and a massive prize fund is up for grabs, but, as we all know, this is a hard-fought contest and anything can happen before that final in a few weeks' time. What we do know is Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon will pass judgement.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **4.30** Final Score. **5.20** Pointless Celebrities. (R)
6.10 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
6.30 Doctor Who. Madame Vastra, Jenny and Strax investigate when the people of an 1893 Yorkshire mining town start dying of a mysterious affliction that leaves their bodies bright red and wax-like.
7.15 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.
8.05 The Voice UK. The final round of blind auditions – the last chance for the remaining hopefuls to win a place on Jessie J, Will.i.am, Tom Jones or Danny O'Donoghue's team.
9.25 Casualty. Ash deals with his daughter's admission to the ED after she is hit by a police car driven by a drunken officer, while Tom's judgement is called into question.
10.15 BBC News; Weather.
10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, which included Queens Park Rangers v Arsenal and West Bromwich Albion v Wigan Athletic; National Lottery Update.
12.00 The Football League Show. **1.10** Weatherview. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.55 Film:** Up in the World. (1956) **8.25 Film:** The Early Bird. (1965) **10.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **12.00** University Challenge. (R) **12.30** Just a Minute. (R) **1.00** Live MotoGP. **2.00** EastEnders. (R) **3.50** Coast. (R) **4.30** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **5.30** Flog It!
6.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring and the platoon try to capture three German airmen who have landed in a lake after bailing out and intend to stay in their dinghy until nightfall. (R)
7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Jason Mohammad presents coverage of the concluding session of the second semi-final at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where ties are contested over the best of 33 frames. Subsequent programmes are subject to change.
9.30 QI XL. Stephen Fry is joined by Jack Dee, Chris Addison, Rich Hall and regular panellist Alan Davies on an extended edition of the quiz with a difference. (R)
10.15 The United States of Television: America in Primetime. Alan Yentob reflects on the social changes that transformed the traditional image of a stay-at-home mother portrayed on American TV in the 1950s into the independent woman of today.
11.15 Film: Sin City. (2005) Three tales unfold and intertwine on the dark streets of a brutal and unforgiving city. Thriller, with Mickey Rourke, Bruce Willis and Clive Owen.
1.10 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Special Agent Oso. **6.10** Special Agent Oso. **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Dino Dan. (R) **7.05** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Canimals. (R) **7.20** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.35** Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.00** Jessie. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Saturday Farm. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **10.20** My Tasty Travels with Lynda Bellingham. (R) **11.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** Fool Britannia. (R) **1.05** All Star Mr & Mrs. (R) **2.05** River Monsters. (R) **3.10** The Chase. (R) **4.10** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.45** Regional Programme; Weather.
6.00 ITV News; Weather.
6.15 You've Been Framed! Top 100 Weddings. Comedian Harry Hill narrates a countdown of 100 wedding-themed camcorder calamities and viewer-submitted mobile-phone clips. (R)
7.15 Britain's Got Talent. Ant and Dec host the nationwide talent search as another line-up of entertainers try to impress judges Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Alesha Dixon and Amanda Holden.
8.15 The Cube. Two more contestants take up the challenge.
9.20 The Jonathan Ross Show. With Zachary Quinto, Zoe Saldana and music by Thom Yorke.
10.20 ITV News; Weather.
10.35 Film: Basic Instinct. (1992) Thriller, starring Sharon Stone and Michael Douglas.
12.50 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Starter Wife. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** Caterham Motorsport. **7.00** FIM Superbike World Championship. **7.25** The Grid. **7.55** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.05** The Simpsons. (R) **12.35** Heston's Titanic Feast. (R) **1.40** Channel 4 Racing. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)
6.10 Come Dine with Me. Businessman Ken Brown hosts the final dinner party in Co Durham and Wearside, and provides his guests with some unique entertainment before the winner is announced. (R)
6.40 Channel 4 News.
7.00 Sarah Beeny's Selling Houses. Homeowners in Windsor, Berkshire, look around one another's properties for improvement ideas and then spruce up their own on a £1,000 budget, hoping to attract buyers.
8.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud follows interior designer Kathryn Tyler as she tries to fulfil her dream of creating a Scandinavian-style eco house in her mother's back garden in Cornwall. (R)
9.00 Film: Star Trek. (2009) Sci-fi adventure, with Chris Pine and Zachary Quinto.
11.25 Film: Premonition. (2007) Supernatural thriller, starring Sandra Bullock.
1.20 Film: Mahanagar. (1963) Drama, starring Madhabi Mukherjee. **3.35** Coming Up. (R) **4.05** Hollyoaks. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.15** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. (R) **10.50** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.15** Inside Hollywood. **11.20** Frontline Police. (R) **12.20** Emergency Bikers. (R) **1.20** Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild. (R) **2.25 Film:** Avalanche Express. (1979) **4.10 Film:** Breakheart Pass. (1975)
6.00 5 News Weekend.
6.05 Film: Stone Cold. (2005) A sleepy backwater town's hard-drinking chief of police pursues a serial killer and investigates the rape of a teenager. Detective drama, starring Tom Selleck.
7.30 NCIS. An attempted robbery leads to the death of a lieutenant. (R)
8.20 NCIS. The agents find out about a government organisation dedicated to child prodigies while investigating a marine's death, and realise a 12-year-old could be the killer's next target. (R)
9.20 Law & Order: Criminal Intent. An inspector for the department of health is murdered.
10.15 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. A murder echoes a crime committed 20 years previously.
11.10 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. A witness in a rape case is reluctant to testify.
12.10 SuperCasino. **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.20** Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) **4.45** County Secrets. (R) **4.55** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.05** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.15** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.35** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes **7.05** Animal Antics **7.35 Film:** G-Force (2009) **9.00** Sweat the Small Stuff **9.30** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** American Dad! **11.30 Film:** Old School (2003)
BBC Four
7.00 South Pacific **8.00** A303: Highway to the Sun **9.00** Arne Dahl: To the Top of the Mountain – Part One **10.30** Queen Live in Budapest: Hungarian Rhapsody
ITV2
2.35 Film: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **4.20** You've Been Framed! **6.00 Film:** Twister (1996) **8.15** Britain's Got More Talent **9.20** Totally You've Been Framed! **10.15** Celebrity Juice **11.05** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **11.35** Britain's Got Talent
ITV3
2.00 A Touch of Frost **4.00 Film:** Watership Down (1978) **5.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Lewis **11.00** Taggart
ITV4
3.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. **7.30** Indian Premier League Greatest Hitters **8.30** River Monsters **9.35 Film:** Jaws 2 (1978) **11.55 Film:** Sweeney! (1977)
E4
5.25 The Mindy Project **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Youngers **7.30** How I Met Your Mother **8.30** 2 Broke Girls **9.00 Film:** The Omen (2006) **11.15** The Big Bang Theory
Film4
3.10 Home Alone (1990) **5.10** She's the Man (2006) **7.10** Legend (1985) **9.00** Dogma. (1999) Comedy fantasy, starring Matt Damon. **11.30** Star Trek Into Darkness Interview Special **11.40** 30 Days of Night (2007)

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76% OF PEOPLE SPEND HALF OR MORE OF THEIR MONEY WITHIN 5 MILES
Source: Newspaper Society

What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 5.05.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Azi Farni

Live MotoGP
BBC2, 12.30pm
The third round of the season takes place at the Circuito de Jerez, as the Spanish Grand Prix takes centre stage on the MotoGP calendar. Casey Stoner took the chequered flag last year after moving up from fifth on the starting grid, crossing the line less than a second ahead of pole-sitter Jorge Lorenzo. The Australian retired at the end of last year so won't be in contention to repeat his victory, and if the Grand Prix of the Americas is any indication, it appears a new racing prodigy could be one of the likely candidates to claim the glory here. With reports from Azi Farni.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics; Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.20** Countryfile. (R) **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.15** Helicopter Heroes. **2.45** Points of View. **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Songs of Praise. **4.35** Great Bear Stakeout. (R) **5.35** The Diamond Queen. (R)

6.35 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.00 Countryfile. Reports from Cambridgeshire, going behind the scenes of Newmarket racecourse, profiling local poet John Clare and telling the story of Victorian naturalist the Rev Leonard Jenyns. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. The experts are in Chepstow, Monmouthshire, where items include early Olympic Games medals and a lightbulb containing a painstakingly made model of Lincoln Cathedral.

9.00 The Village. Old Bert recalls 1920, as the locals honour their war dead with the unveiling of a memorial. But there is upset when one name is left off the list of the fallen. Last in the series.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day 2. Colin Murray and guests look back at the day's Premier League matches, which were Manchester United v Chelsea at Old Trafford and Liverpool v Everton at Anfield.

11.35 Regional Programme.

12.05 The Sky at Night. **12.25 Film:** A Boy Called Dad. (2009) **1.40** Weatherview. **1.45** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.10 Film:** Experiment Perilous. (1944) Murder mystery, starring Hedy Lamarr. **7.40 Film:** The White Tower. (1950) Mountaineering drama, starring Alida Valli. **9.15** The A to Z of TV Gardening. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **12.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **12.30** Live MotoGP: The Spanish Grand Prix MotoGP race (Start-time 1.00pm). **2.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. Coverage of the opening session of the final at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where the first eight frames of the match are scheduled to take place.

6.00 Coast. Stories linked to sea cliffs around the UK, with Nick Crane visiting a funicular railway at Saltburn-by-the-Sea and Andy Torbet taking part in an exercise with commando recruits. (R)

7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Hazel Irvine and Jason Mohammad present all the action from the second session of the final at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre, where a further nine frames are scheduled to take place. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

11.00 Dave Allen: God's Own Comedian. A look at the life, career and legacy of the Irish comedy writer and performer, featuring interviews with family and friends and rare archive material. (R)

12.00 Film: Romance and Cigarettes. (2005) Musical drama, starring James Gandolfini. **1.40** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.35** Holby City. Elliot and Ollie come into conflict. (R) **3.35** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Special Agent Oso. **6.10** Special Agent Oso. **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Dino Dan. (R) **7.05** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Canimals. (R) **7.20** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.30** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **8.00** Sonny with a Chance. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Country House Sunday. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** Love Your Garden. (R) **1.30** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **2.30 Film:** Fletch. (1985) Comedy mystery, with Chevy Chase and Tim Matheson. **4.25** Midsomer Murders. (R)

6.15 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.30 ITV News; Weather.

6.45 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the revival of the game show in which contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.

7.30 Off Their Rockers. A pensioner auditions for Britain's Got Talent.

8.00 Endeavour. A professor is killed in a hit-and-run. Last in the series.

10.00 Perspectives: Hugh Laurie: Copper Bottom Blues. The actor and musician delves into the history of the blues in America. Last in the series.

10.55 ITV News; Weather.

11.15 Premiership Rugby Union. Action from the final round of fixtures in the regular season.

12.10 The Store. **2.10** Monk. (R) **2.55** Motorsport UK. **3.45** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.05** Freesports on 4. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.50** The Simpsons. (R) **1.20** The Simpsons. (R) **1.50** Channel 4 Racing. **4.10** Deal or No Deal. **5.10** Five Minutes to a Fortune.

6.10 Channel 4 News.

6.30 Come Dine with Me. Four contestants take part in a week of competitive dining in Surrey, beginning with estate agent James Quantrell hosting a Best of British-themed evening. (R)

7.25 Film: Gulliver's Travels. (2010) Premiere. A man tries to prove himself by exploring the Bermuda Triangle, and ends up stuck on an island where he is a giant. Fantasy comedy, starring Jack Black and Emily Blunt.

9.00 Peter Kay Live: The Tour That Didn't Tour – Tour. Peter Kay brings his hugely successful tour to the small screen, returning to live stand-up comedy after a seven-year break. (R)

10.55 Film: The Waterboy. (1998) The coach of an American football team spots the talent of their put-upon waterboy and gives him the chance to prove himself on the pitch. Comedy, with Adam Sandler.

12.40 Film: Charulata. (1964) Drama, with Madhabi Mukherjee and Soumitra Chatterjee. **2.45** Coming Up. (R) **3.10** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.05** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.00** Countdown. (R) **5.45** SuperScrimpers. **5.50** Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **6.30** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.45** Chloe's Closet. **6.55** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.00** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.15** Animal Antics. (R) **7.20** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.30** Mio Mao. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Milkshake! Show Songs. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.30** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.45** Jelly Jamm. (R) **10.00** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **10.10** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. (R) **10.40** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.05** Climbing the Giants. (R) **11.35** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **12.35 Film:** Thunderpants. (2002) **2.20 Film:** Along Came Polly. (2004) **4.00 Film:** What a Girl Wants. (2003)

6.00 Film: Dirty Dancing. (1987) Romantic drama, with Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey.

8.05 Once Upon a Time. Dr Whale resurrects Regina's dead lover.

9.00 The Truth About Travellers.

9.55 5 News Weekend.

10.00 Film: London Boulevard. (2010) Premiere. Crime drama, with Colin Farrell.

11.55 Soho Blues. (R)

12.55 SuperCasino. **4.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) **4.45** County Secrets. (R) **4.55** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.05** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.15** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.35** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great TV Mistakes **7.10** Snog, Marry, Avoid? **7.40** The Voice UK **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **9.45** Sweat the Small Stuff: Extra Sweaty **10.30** Barely Legal Drivers **11.30** Family Guy

BBC Four
7.00 She-Wolves: England's Early Queens **8.00** Timewatch: Stonehenge **9.00** Margaret **10.55** Top of the Pops 1977: Big Hits **11.55** Top of the Pops 1978: Big Hits

ITV2
3.30 You've Been Framed! **4.35** Britain's Got Talent **5.40** Britain's Got More Talent **6.45 Film:** Peter Pan (2003) **9.00 Film:** 300 (2006) **11.20** Celebrity Juice

ITV3
3.50 Film: The Secret of My Success (1987) **5.55** Agatha Christie's Poirot **8.00 Film:** Seabiscuit (2003) Fact-based horse racing drama, with Tobey Maguire. **10.45** A Touch of Frost

ITV4
10.45 Live British Touring Car Championship. **6.00** BRDC Formula 4 Championship Highlights **7.00** World of Sport: 1980s **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Indian Premier League Cricket **10.00 Film:** Burn After Reading (2008)

E4
3.40 How I Met Your Mother **4.35** Revenge **5.30** New Girl **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** The Mindy Project **8.00 Film:** Journey to the Center of the Earth (2008) **9.55** Derren Brown: Enigma **11.35** 2 Broke Girls

Film4
3.05 Five Children and It (2004) **4.50** Inkheart (2008) **6.55** Another Stakeout (1993) **9.00** True Lies (1994) **11.45** Predator (1987)

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY
Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl, BBC1, 8.30pm
A buccaneer and a blacksmith commandeer a British ship and set sail in pursuit of a pirate captain who has kidnapped a colonial governor's daughter. However, their quarry and his crew are under a curse that turns them into living skeletons – and makes them impossible to kill. Swashbuckling fantasy adventure, starring Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom, Keira Knightley, Geoffrey Rush, Jack Davenport and Jonathan Pryce. (2003)

TUESDAY
Fast & Furious, ITV, 10.40pm
A phone call informing him of a friend's murder brings international fugitive Dominic Toretto back to his home city of Los Angeles in search of revenge. It is not long before his pursuit leads him to cross paths with FBI agent Brian, and despite their hostile feelings toward one another, the pair work together as part of a smuggling ring to bring down those responsible. Thriller sequel, starring Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Michelle Rodriguez and Jordana Brewster. (2009)

Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl, Monday, BBC1, 8.30pm

WEDNESDAY
The Ninth Gate, Channel 5, 9pm
A book dealer is hired by a wealthy collector to locate the two remaining copies of 17th-century work The Nine Gates to the Kingdom of Shadows. His search takes him to New York, Madrid and Paris as he becomes increasingly curious about rumours that the book's author collaborated with the Devil. Roman Polanski's horror, starring Johnny Depp, Emmanuelle Seigner, Frank Langella and Lena Olin. (1999)

THURSDAY
McBride: Fallen Idol, Channel 5, 3.20pm
McBride is devastated to learn his mentor, a talented defence attorney, has been stabbed to death outside his home. The crusading lawyer becomes involved in the case, and it quickly becomes apparent that the victim was hiding a dark secret. Mystery, starring John Larroquette, Marta DuBois and Matt Lutz. (2006)

FRIDAY
Mansfield Park, BBC2, 11.05pm
The impoverished parents of a headstrong young woman decide to send their daughter to live with wealthy relatives, ensuring her a brighter future. As she grows up, she becomes a keen observer of human nature, investigating attitudes to marriage and social status, while honing her skills as an author. Drama, based on Jane Austen's novel, starring Frances O'Connor, Harold Pinter, Embeth Davidtz, Jonny Lee Miller, Alessandro Nivola and James Purefoy. (1999)

Pick of the Week

Locals struggle to come to terms with their losses

Muck, grime and endless misery – those are the three things we'll take away from watching The Village, the BBC's relentlessly grim drama set in the Peak District in the early part of the 20th century.

That description may sound as if we've hated every minute of the six-part series, but that's just not true – it's been a masterclass in acting, with some amazing stories and characters. But boy, a little escape from the drudgery every now and then would have been nice.

But then again, they haven't had much to smile about.

"Life is a struggle for them and they scrape by and the marriage is quite strained due to the desperate situation," says Maxine Peake of her character, Grace Middleton, and her family.

This week, the plot moves on to 1920, and the Great War has been over for two years – but the village's residents are still counting the cost.

After being locked up thanks to his status as a conscientious objector, it's Eyre who notices the biggest differences, not just to the place itself, but the manner of his former friends and neighbours.

Soldiers continue to return from their duties overseas and expect to immediately settle into their old lives by going back to their factory jobs, little realising that the women who took their places have no intention of giving them up and have, in fact, joined a union.

Bert, now 18, invites his old teacher to stay with the Middletons, but it isn't a happy visit thanks to the tension caused by Joe's death - and the unveiling of the local war memorial doesn't improve the mood either.

Grace learns that her son's name won't be added to the list of the 'glorious dead', while Margaret discovers that her boy's body won't be coming home.

So, it's clear that Maxine's character still can't find happiness. At least the actress herself was more than happy to be involved with the project.

"I've never filmed in the Peak District before," she explains. "It's such a beautiful part of Britain, which I think gets slightly overshadowed by the Lake District when people think of Northern beauty spots.

"When I was around 10, I used to go to a Unitarian church and they had a hostel in Little Hucklow. We'd have breaks there going walking and pot-holing. I'd forgotten how breathtaking the scenery was until I started filming."

Despite having fun on set with co-stars such as John Simm and Juliet Stevenson, she's enjoyed getting back to the comforts of 2013 after filming: "We shot quite a few scenes with gas lamps and candles as the only source of light. It was a bit tricky doing certain scenes when you couldn't see the other actors you were talking to!

"Given the cold wet weather, an electric blanket would have been nice. Hot water bottles were my saviour when we were filming scenes in bed."

This is the last in the current series, and many more are planned so that the story of the Middletons is brought right up to date – here's hoping it won't be long before it's back.

John Simm heads the cast of The Village, Sunday, BBC1, 9pm

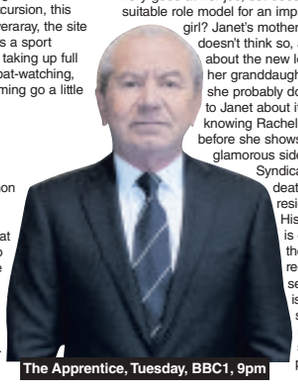
Best of the Rest

MONDAY
Live Snooker: The World Championship
BBC2, 7pm
Hazel Irvine and Jason Mohammad present the concluding session of this year's final at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where the successful player needs to reach 18 frames to lift the famous trophy. Ronnie O'Sullivan duly completed his victory in last year's final, turning a 15-10 advantage into an 18-11 triumph over Ali Carter to win the tournament for the fourth time, leaving Carter as runner-up for a second time. This time around, Mark Selby was fancied by many to reach this stage, having enjoyed a strong year so far, while Judd Trump entered the tournament looking to go one better than in 2011, when he was beaten by John Higgins in the showpiece match.

The Job Lot
ITV, 9.30pm
Although somewhat overshadowed last week by Vicious, ITV's other big Monday night launch show, this sitcom certainly showed lots of promise. Set in a Midlands job centre, it focuses on the staff and clients that either work, or would like to gain work, there. This week, Trish is fighting to boost the centre's figures, and brings in the heavy artillery – Army sergeant Steve Fox, who turns the place into a recruitment office, and ends up getting some unwanted interest from an unexpected source. Meanwhile, benefit fraud officer George tries to paper over the cracks when his attempt to catch a man who's been signing on while working as a decorator backfires.

TUESDAY
Caroline Quentin's National Parks
ITV, 8pm
Caroline Quentin's on her travels again. It only seems like two minutes since she was exploring Cornwall, and here she is, bags packed once more. This time she's visiting three of Britain's most spectacular National Parks, beginning with Loch Lomond and the Trossachs, which are nestled in the south west of Scotland. Caroline's first trip involves seeing the area from a great vantage point – via a sea-plane flight. She's left puffing and blowing by another excursion, this time involving caber-tossing at Inveraray, the site of the annual Highland Games. It's a sport Caroline is adamant she won't be taking up full time – let's hope her attempts at bat-watching, traditional dancing and wild swimming go a little bit better...

The Apprentice
BBC1, 9pm
Over the years we've seen Tim Campbell, Michelle Dewberry, Simon Ambrose, Lee McQueen, Yasmina Siadatan, Stella English, Thomas Pellereau and Ricky Martin (not that one) seize victory, but it remains to be seen which of this new lot have the right stuff to impress Alan Sugar and his cohorts. First task: Eight boys versus eight girls; each group is taken to a shipping container full of imported products. Their challenge? To work through the night to sort the products out and then sell everything before 4pm. If this lot leaves you hungry for more, don't miss sister show The Apprentice: You're Fired, in which Dara O Briain returns for another light-hearted autopsy with the first unlucky loser.


The Apprentice, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

WEDNESDAY
Scott & Bailey
ITV, 9pm
Rachel Bailey is independent, feisty, and very, very good at her job, but does that mean she's a suitable role model for an impressionable young girl? Janet's mother Dorothy certainly doesn't think so, as she worries about the new lodger's influence on her granddaughter Taisie. However, she probably doesn't need to speak to Janet about it just yet, as knowing Rachel, it won't be long before she shows Taisie her less glamorous side… Meanwhile, the Syndicate investigates the death of nursing home resident Gerald French. His daughter Catherine is concerned about the care he'd been receiving, and when a seemingly shy trainee is discovered slapping an elderly resident, it seems she may have a point.

THURSDAY
Murder on the Home Front
ITV, 9pm
The inventive, controversial and occasionally taboo-busting origins of forensic science are revealed in this thoroughly entertaining new wartime drama. The first episode follows Home Office pathologist Dr Lennox Collins and his vivacious secretary Molly Cooper (played by Boardwalk Empire's Patrick Kennedy and The Tudors' Tamzin Merchant) as they investigate the murder of a man found with a swastika carved into his head. When their ground-breaking techniques quickly disprove the guilt of a chief suspect, the duo come face-to-face with hostility on both sides of the law. Based on the memoirs of a wartime member of the Home Office Pathology Department, Murder on the Home Front promises to be a polished and exciting addition to ITV's roster of impressive period dramas.

FRIDAY
Pride & Prejudice: Having a Ball
BBC2, 9pm
What better way to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Pride and Prejudice than a ball? Of course, back in 1813, when Jane Austen's much-loved novel was first published, readers would have known exactly how to go about organising such a bash, but in the 21st century, we need a little help. So presenters Alistair Sooke and Amanda Vickery have drafted in a team of experts to recreate the Netherfield Ball, the intimate, country-house gathering that provides a key turning point in the relationship between Mr Darcy and Elizabeth Bennett.

Share Your Views on Your Local Hospital

Have you or one of your friends/family recently been a patient at The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust? Would you like to share your experiences in a national review into the quality of care in the Trust?

Sir Bruce Keogh has been tasked with reviewing the quality of care and treatment in 14 NHS trusts and foundation trusts across the country - one of which is The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust. A core principle of the review is patient and public participation. Patients, the public and staff will play an important role in informing the review's findings by sharing their views and experiences.

AS PART OF THE REVIEW AN INDEPENDENT PANEL WILL BE HOLDING A LISTENING SURGERY.

Your local surgery will be held at Russells Hall Hospital, Pensnett Road, Dudley DY1 2HQ in the Clinical Education Centre First Floor, from 6pm on Tuesday 7th May 2013. Parking will be available on site.

WHAT WILL THIS EVENT INCLUDE?
You'll have a chance to share and discuss your experiences with the review panel, fellow patients and other members of the community in a public forum.

WHAT IF YOU CAN'T MAKE IT TO THE EVENT?
We still want to hear your views. For details on how to share your feedback, and for more information about the Keogh Mortality Review and information on alternative ways in which you can contribute, visit the NHS Choices website at **http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/bruce-keogh-review/Pages/Overview.aspx**

For further information, or to book your place, contact the Communications team on (01384) 456111 extension 1419 or email communications@dgh.nhs.uk

star ★ extra TRAVEL

Ladies Day at Royal Ascot

Royal Ascot is a national institution and the premier sporting and social event in the summer calendar.

See top class thoroughbreds and world-famous jockeys competing in six races including the legendary Gold Cup, a battle of stamina and determination and one of the most sought after prizes in flat racing.

Royal Ascot Ladies day is a fashion show like no other where the designer creations and millinery masterpieces reach their zenith and the elegance of the ladies' outfits is matched only by the flair of their hats.

Entrance to the Silver Ring enclosure is included where there are plenty of bars, food outlets, big screen TVs and live musical entertainment. As the action begins there are excellent views of the Royal Procession and all the afternoon's racing.

A stop will be made on the way to Ascot at a hotel where a glass of sparkling wine and a brunch-time full English breakfast will be served.

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There are also a number of attractions for you to visit including the Jersey War Tunnels, Durrell Wildlife Conservation Park, Mont Orgueil Castle and La Mare Wine Estate to name a few.

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Brain Gym

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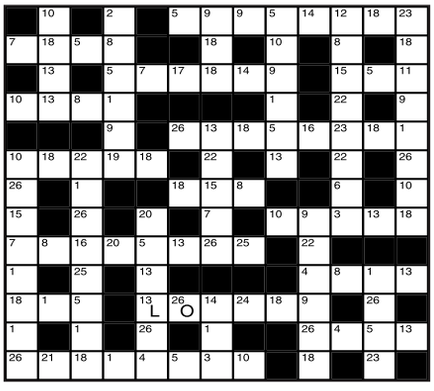
Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13 L	26 O

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 R	2 I	3 M	4 S	5 T	6 Q	7 A	8 H	9 E	10 O	11 N	12 W	13 V
14 G	15 D	16 B	17 F	18 P	19 X	20 C	21 U	22 Y	23 J	24 L	25 Z	26 K

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

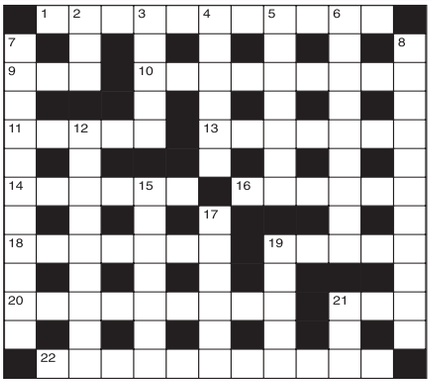
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. They have been worn by men in retirement (11)
9. It turns quiet at the end (3)
10. Does it provide wood for building aircraft? (5,4)
11. Most of the men attempt to find a way in (5)
13. Get in an unusual profit (3,4)
14. It contains a variety of provisions (6)
16. Women haven't the face to use them! (6)
18. In fairness, it's simply very cold water (7)
19. Part of the audit totalled up to the same thing (5)
20. Part of the tide of lawlessness? (5,4)
21. Slip up out of merriment (3)
22. The top salesmen in print? (4,7)

Down

2. I'm quiet, but he probably won't be! (3)
3. Pleased to be lucky (5)
4. Soils satins, perhaps (6)
5. Train that is brought to absolute rest (7)
6. Evict a sailor and look the other way (4,5)
7. His work is above most people! (11)
8. Where games are won by the over-forties (6,5)
12. It makes one admission after another (9)
15. It's clear I'd be involved in whatever occurred (7)
17. Be up in a local tax and get discount (6)
19. Live well on five hundred (5)
21. It may be pierced or just pricked (3)



Quick Clues:

Across

1. Sleight of hand (11)
9. Employ (3)
10. Transact (9)
11. Takes off (5)
13. Tarnished (7)
14. Scream (6)
16. Stress (6)
18. Performer (7)
19. Purchaser (5)
20. Abandon (4,5)
21. Fish (3)
22. January 1st (3,5,3)

Down

2. Sheep (3)
3. Sea-eagles (5)
4. Summary (6)
5. Sailor (7)
6. Fancied (9)
7. Get far ahead of (11)
8. Starring part (7,4)
12. Anticipation (9)
15. Rapture (7)
17. Part of the eye (6)
19. Consecrate (5)
21. Epoch (3)

Sudoku

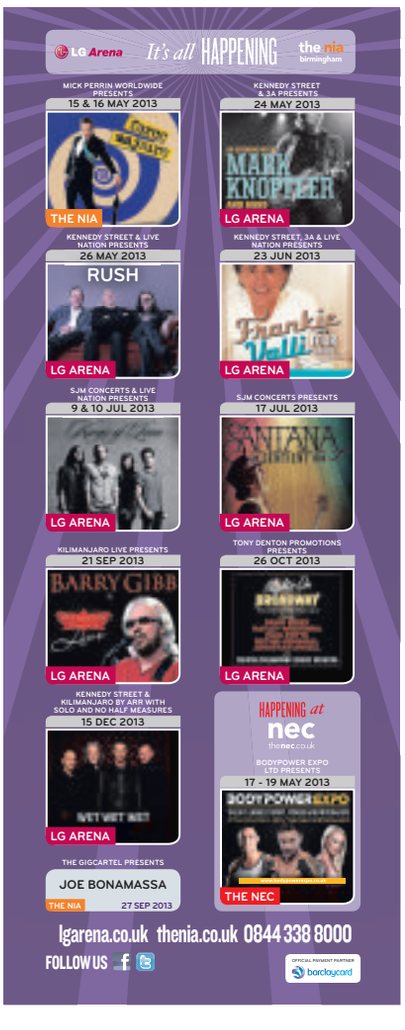
6	3				1		5	
9				6	2	7		
	4	8		7				6
	6	2		9				5
					8			
8		9		3		4	6	
				1		6	8	
7		4	5					9
			7				4	2

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	5	8	6	9	2	1	3	4
2	4	9	8	1	3	5	6	7
3	1	6	5	4	7	9	8	2
6	2	7	9	5	8	4	1	3
5	8	4	7	3	1	6	2	9
9	3	1	4	2	6	7	5	8
4	9	2	3	6	5	8	7	1
8	6	3	1	7	4	2	9	5
1	7	5	2	8	9	3	4	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Stag; 3 Prudence; 9 At heart; 10 Rumba; 11 General store; 13 Adroit; 15 Roller; 17 Fighting form; 20 Areas; 21 Ontario; 22 In the bag; 23 Isle. Down: 1 Shanghai; 2 Ashen; 4 Rattle; 5 Dark thoughts; 6 Numeral; 7 Eras; 8 Marry in haste; 12 Trombone; 14 Raiment; 16 Mimosa; 18 Ogres; 19 Sari. QUICK - Across: 1 Cite; 3 Campaign; 9 Noxious; 10 Levee; 11 Second nature; 13 Exotic;15 Afresh; 17 Superstition; 20 Twist; 21 Elevate; 22 Mutilate; 23 Very. Down: 1 Canister; 2 Toxic; 4 Assent; 5 Pilot-officer; 6 Inverse; 7 Need; 8 Coincidental; 12 Thundery; 14 Oculist; 16 Assert; 18 Irate; 19 Item.



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- Single garage (EPC - C)

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60 MEADOWCROFT

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- Bathroom with shower
- Secure parking (EPC - C)

£550 PCM

HAGLEY
3 THE SIDINGS

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- Located in Hagley Village (EPC - C)

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DUDLEY
10 STEPPINGSTONE STREET

- Modern semi-detached house
- Off road parking
- 3 bedrooms (EPC - C)

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LYE
10 OVERMAN CLOSE

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WORDSLEY
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Home of Property

Luxury home has undergone update

The first floor of the Georgian style home has been updated and extended over the double garage

AN impressive five bedroom Georgian style house in Lower Gornal is for sale based on offers around £430,000.

The property in High Arcal Road, Straits, has undergone a scheme of updating over the last few years to include an enlarged and refitted breakfast kitchen, utility room and cloakroom, and benefits from mainly double glazed and centrally heated accommodation.

The first floor has been extended above the garage to provide five bedrooms, two with en-suites, two with dressing rooms and a family bathroom.

There are landscaped gardens to the front, side and rear and are set behind a wall with gated access and ample parking.

On the ground floor a cloakroom has a white suite of WC and wash hand basin and there is also a family room/study, through lounge with feature living flame wall mounted gas fire and a dining room with door to the garden.

The breakfast kitchen has a range of fitted wall, base and drawer units with granite worktops over, built-in fridge/freezer, dishwasher and wine fridge, two built-in electric double ovens and grills, stainless steel sink and central island with electric induction hob with extractor over.

There is also a utility room with base cupboard, work top, stainless steel sink and mixer tap, space and plumbing for washing machine and tumble dryer and a cloakroom with WC and wash hand basin.

On the first floor the master bedroom has a range of built-in wardrobes, dressing room and white en-suite with sink, WC and shower cubicle.

Another of the bedrooms has an en-suite with WC, sink unit and shower, and the family bathroom has a white suite with spa-bath, WC, sink and corner shower cubicle.

Outside the house is set behind an old stone wall with electric gated access to a tarmac driveway with ample parking, and to the rear is a paved patio.

Steps lead down to a side garden with children's play area with climbing frame/playhouse, with a further side patio having a lawn, borders and path.

There is also sandstone outbuilding and fruit trees.

Call Berriman Eaton on 01902 747744 for more details.

Extended semi-detached is ideal for first-time buyer

At the rear of the house is a conservatory which leads to the garden with patio and decking area

A WELL-PRESENTED and extended semi-detached house in Russells Hall, Dudley, is on the market based on offers around £109,950.

Ideal for a first-time buyer or investor, the property in Geston Road has a hallway, three reception rooms, conservatory, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms and white bathroom suite, while outside is a driveway for two cars and enclosed rear garden.

On the ground floor reception room, 9ft 8in by 9ft 6in, one has a wall mounted electric fire while the second reception room measuring 11ft 5in by 9ft 5imn has a fire surround with backplate and hearth with inset living flame gas fire and leads into a conservatory which is 10ft 6in by 7ft 2in and has French doors to the garden.

The kitchen, 18ft 1in by 7ft 9in, has a range of wall and base units with work surfaces, inset one and a half bowl sink drainer, integrated fridge freezer and door to reception room three which is 13ft 5in by 6ft 2in.

On the first floor are the two bedrooms and a bathroom with white suite comprising panelled bath with electric shower over, pedestal wash hand basin and WC.

Outside the house is set back from the road behind a surfaced driveway, with the rear garden having a patio, lawn and decked area.

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GORNAL NEW

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DUDLEY

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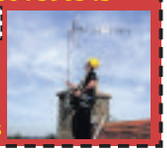

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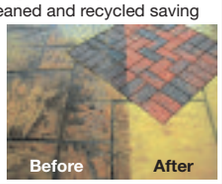

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property

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Motoring

Compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Vauxhall's convertible looks a winner

By Ian Donaldson

IT'S not hard to see where Vauxhall would like to be on the ladder of automotive desirability... on the rung below Audi, you'd guess.

Vauxhall's new, big four-seater Cascada convertible is the latest in a recent onslaught of new models, all aimed at giving the brand a more glossy feel for potential punters.

We've seen recent launches for the petrol/electric Ampera, medium-sized SUV Mokka and chic and small Adam.

The first will sell in tiny numbers, with the Adam finding tough opposition from Fiat and Mini and only the Mokka likely to make it high up the charts.

But you get the feeling outright sales are less important than making other road users take a second glance and ask 'what is that rather smart looking car over there?"

And now comes the Cascada, Spanish for waterfall (or the pop group representing Germany at the 2013 Eurovision Song Contest), which is predicted to sell only a couple of thousand here each year.

But you'll take notice every time one comes into view. It's a big car and it's got masses of smart street presence, with the hood up or down (an action that takes a mere 17 seconds in either direction).

The Vauxhall Cascada is ready to roar into the convertible market

The Cascada oozes class with the roof down and the sun shining

Now here's a dashboard to die for

More look-at-me pulling power, for instance, than the smaller Audi A5 Convertible, which also costs nearly £8,000 more than the least expensive Cascada.

Now, that may not matter a jot to an Audi buyer, who would not even mention a Vauxhall in the same breath, but it sure matters to the seller of the Cascada, keen as moutarde to give the brand a bit of upmarket chic.

Cover over the badge and you'd never guess the car costs from a modest (in large convertible terms) £23,995. Even under a watery English sky it looks terrific; utterly up to posing on the quayside at Monte Carlo among the inevitable Porches... and Audis. You'd never guess it's a stablemate for the humble, company car park favourite, the Insignia.

Swathes

At least, not until you slipped inside, where you discover it now becomes an Insignia in all but name, with added swathes of nicely stitched leather to disguise thing a bit. That didn't stop the test car, a £26,095 version with the smallest engine available (1.4 litre petrol) having the most comfortable driver's seat I've enjoyed in living memory, thanks to a myriad of adjustments, heating and handsome leather facings. Eat your heart out, Audi.

Giving the Cascada a fabric roof has saved valuable weight over the folding metal contraptions that briefly shone in this sector. It's good to look at, works up to 30mph and produces no more noise than the fixed covering you might find in an Insignia. It does compromise boot space, leaving a long, thin slot for luggage when its folded away (all that fabric has got to go somewhere). The rear seats fold down to give lots more room with the roof in place.

Losing the rigidity of a fixed roof means, despite extra body strengthening, the Cascada wobbles gently on bad road surfaces, but it's not going to be a problem for owners who won't mind the trade off if it means hours basking in top-down sunshine.

A 2.0 litre diesel (£25,495) is expected to be the biggest seller in a range that tops out at £29,080 for a pumped up version of the same engine. The 1.4i Elite version's modestly powerful petrol unit was quiet and smooth but need a good prod to produce much action.

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Colts are in cruise control to rack up 41 points

Wolverhampton 41 Lichfield 10

WOLVERHAMPTON Colts claimed the rugby union county plate final against Lichfield on a blustery day at Burntwood.

They took the lead on five minutes when Arran Norman broke through to score the first try, which Bill Jones converted for a seven-point lead.

Four minutes later, Norman broke through in a near carbon copy of his first score, Jones again adding the extras.

Lichfield began to edge back into the game, but Jones kicked a penalty to stretch his side's lead.

Lichfield scored a try to trail 17-5 at the break.

But soon after the interval, Jones bagged a try which he converted as Wolves stretched their advantage to 24-5.

His second try, which he converted, was bookended by a brace of five-pointers for Steve Byrne as Wolves stretched away to a 41-5 lead.

Gallant Lichfield plugged away and got a consolation try in the 62nd minute, but there was no hauling back such a big margin.

Stafford 12 Wolverhampton 39

Wolverhampton seconds rounded off their season with a good win at Stafford.

With the Merit table in the bag, Wolves successfully defended their record of being unbeaten since Christmas.

Jimmy Holiday slotted an early penalty and then set up a line-out from which Callum Wellings barged over for a try.

A further converted try put Wolves 15-0 up before Stafford responded with a converted try before the break.

The first 20 minutes after the break were arguably Wolves' best passage of play this year. They ran in a series of tries before Stafford's consolation score to finish 39-12 winners.

Wolverhampton 21 Bridgnorth 10

The thirds ran in three tries in a good win over Bridgnorth.

Rob Harris scored twice on his comeback with Ash Harris notching the first try in his warm-up for the upcoming rugby league season.

Lloyd Bridges converted all three tries to ensure that even a last-minute try by Bridgnorth was never going to put too much pressure on Wolves, who generally were the controlling force on the field.

Good performances by Dan Squires in the centres, with excellent tackling and intelligent running and Dan Harrington at tight head, so powerful once his momentum is established, ensured that Wolves constantly pressured.

The standard that the team produces is noticeably better than a couple of seasons ago.

Bromsgrove 14 Wolverhampton 62

Wolverhampton under-12s finised the season in style with a huge win over Bromsgrove.

It marks a big step forward for the young Wolves, who drew 25-25 against the same team earlier this season at Castlecroft.

Wolves were first to score, Finn Mullen converting his own try, and although Bromsgrove levelled the visitors were 33-14 up at half-time and kicked on with a further 29 points after the interval, Ethan Cole bagging the final try.

The victorious Perton and Codsall under-13 side which beat AFC Woodcross in the final

Harper hits winners

Perton and Codsall U15 Wolves 2
Hawkins Sports U15 0

Junior football

TWO goals from Louis Harper saw Perton and Codsall lift the Chris Lee League Cup trophy at Bilston's ground. Harper struck in each half, but it was Hawkins who began the match on the front foot.

Perton almost took the lead against the run of play when Alex Blyth broke free only to see his shot well-blocked by the rapidly advancing keeper.

Perton began to gain the upper hand and Ramesh Ram beat the full-back and whipped in a cross to the unmarked Sam Squire who headed over from eight yards.

Ram then turned his man and forced a corner with a shot. The first goal came on the half-hour, when Taylor Wycherley intercepted on the halfway line, advanced and put Harper in to lift the ball over the keeper.

He nearly doubled the lead after the break when his thunderous shot was touched onto the underside of the bar by the Hawkins keeper. But on 50 minutes, he did score when he beat his man and wrong-footed the keeper with a shot which squeezed in.

Wycherley and skipper Matt Finney kept things tight at the back, while Ashley Sage and Aaron Green both went close to a third goal before Finney lifted the trophy.

It was a double success for Perton, who beat AFC Woodcross 2-0 on the same night to win the under-13 competition.

It's drinks all round for the Abbotts

A BREWOOD pensioner is counting the cost after firing a hole in one.

Trevor Abbotts, 76, landed his ace at the 155-yard par-three sixth hole at Lilleshall Hall, where he is club president.

"I was playing with the club chairman and greens chairman – fine fellows," he said.

"The weather was lousy and I picked a bad day to be lucky – a seniors' match against Market Drayton, so the clubhouse was heaving. I'm still counting the cost!"

While the resulting round of drinks left its mark on the Abbotts, there was a big consolation.

His ace entitled him to an exclusive Boss watch.

The luxury German brand will reward club golfers with an exclusive watch for every hole-in-one recorded during a club competition between April 15 and October 31. The scheme is open to any golfer whose club uses HowDidiDo – a free-to-use, web-based social network for golfers. More than 1,800 clubs use the website.

As all official club competitions are recorded on the HowDidiDo system, holes-in-one will be noted and automatically ratified by the golfer's club.

Bonanza at Brandon as the Bees are stung

Coventry 31 Wolves 59

SURPRISE package Wolves continue to defy the experts after routing Midlands rivals Coventry on their own Brandon track.

As team performances go, this was just about perfect, ***writes Rich Jones.*** The Tai Woffinden-Freddie Lindgren spearhead was unstoppable, going unbeaten in 10 outings between them; the middle order was solid and there were race wins in the reserve department.

From the moment Woffinden, currently in the best form of his career, romped to a 5-1 with Ty Proctor in the opening heat, there was only ever going to be one winner.

The Monmore men reeled off four consecutive maximums between races five and eight to build up a comfortable 20-point advantage from which the Bees were never going to recover.

Middle-order men Adam Skornicki and Ricky Wells in particular worked extremely hard to nullify a Scott Nicholls tactical ride in heat seven – going either side of the British champion as he shaped to take the third bend on lap one.

Tactical

Californian ace Wells then extinguished any hopes of a comeback by his former club once again as he teamed up with in-form reserve Ludvig Lindgren to keep Grzegorz Zengota in third place as he took the second Bees tactical ride in heat 12.

The dynamic duo of Woffinden and Freddie Lindgren then completed the rout with further 5-1s in heats 13 and 15 to complete a 59-31 triumph.

Woffinden was threatened only once, when attempting to team ride Proctor to a heat 11 5-1 over Nicholls.

The Coventry man dived inside both Wolves riders in one swoop, but Woffinden powered through to the front in under half a lap.

Speedway

Popular Swede Ludvig Lindgren celebrated being handed a permanent position at reserve by notching his highest score of the season so far – suffering only one defeat in four rides on his way to paid double figures.

Youngster Jacob Thorssell also showed plenty of promise on his way to four points, while Adam Skornicki worked extremely hard for his paid four contribution and was visibly upset at just failing to wrest second place from Stuart Robson on the line in the penultimate heat.

The result continues a quite remarkable start to the new season by Wolves.

Despite having not won on the road since 2010 prior to this season, the club have now recorded three out of four on their travels – and lost by only a point at Eastbourne. They have also won all four home league matches at Monmore Green.

Wolves owner Chris Van Straaten admitted he was surprised with the margin of the win, and added: "All the riders again played a part, and the spirit in the pits is quite remarkable."

Coventry: Stuart Robson 6+1, Olly Allen 6, Grzegorz Zengota 6, Scott Nicholls 5+1, Aaron Summers 5, Krzysztof Kasprzak 3+1, Michal Szczepaniak 0.

Wolves: Tai Woffinden 15, Freddie Lindgren 12+3, Ludvig Lindgren 9+1, Ricky Wells 9, Ty Proctor 7+3, Jacob Thorssell 4, Adam Skornicki 3+1.

White Lions strike in 11 seconds to win cup

Sedgley White Lions under-14 girls emerged triumphant from their League Cup final clash with Kewford Eagles

Sedgley White Lions U14 Girls 4
Kewford Eagles U14 Girls 0

SEDGLEY romped to Stourbridge League Cup final success, scoring their first goal after just 11 seconds.

Phoebe Cox received a pass from the kick-off, beat a defender and rolled her shot home.

Both sides played some neat passing football to create chances, but Jess Morgan in the Sedgley goal kept Kewford at bay. Cox got her second when Bethany Male picked her out with an inch-perfect pass.

Britanee Davies got the third, finding the top corner after being found by Olivia Riese.

Male's fierce shot from distance following a Khloe Hyde pass rounded off the scoring.

Sedgley White Lions U14 Girls 4
Kinver U14 Girls 0

Sedgley ran out 4-0 winners to maintain their 100 per cent Stourbridge League record. Britanee Davies capped a fine move to open the scoring before the interval.

Kinver looked dangerous on the break, but Georgia Skinner scored from the penalty spot to make it 2-0.

Jessica Taylor added the third from an Olivia Riese pass and Phoebe Cox grabbed the fourth.

The club are looking for new players in school years eight and nine. Call 01384 620598.

Bandurak rises as his team falls

WOLVES fan and aspiring PGA professional John Bandurak admits his golf career has gone in the opposite direction to the club he supports over the last year.

The second year PGA assistant has seen his career take off, but it's been a tale of woe for Wolves as they plummet towards League One.

Great Barr Golf Club assistant Bandurak is targeting the Midland qualifier for the Powerade PGA Assistants' Championship at Henley-in-Arden on May 9.

At stake is a place in the £32,000 FootJoy-supported final on August 7-9 at Coventry Golf Club.

He won the Midland qualifier last year and finished third in the PGA Fourball Championship with fellow Wolves fan Halfpenny Green's Darren Prosser.

"As well as getting to the assistants' final, I did well with Darren – I think playing with another avid Wolves fan helped me there," he said.

"I also won the Midlands Assistants' Championship and finished top of the Midlands Assistants' Order of Merit."

Defeat snatched from victory

Danescourt Diary

HOW did we lose that? ***writes David Lycett.***

Our firsts played newly-promoted Wombourne on Saturday and were in control for 75 per cent of the match.

We scored a splendid 254-9, James Hammond making a superb 102 and Simon Lycett adding 35.

We should be able to defend this score and Dan and Adam Quiney bowled brilliant opening spells.

Wombourne needed 150 from 15 overs. Our bowlers lost their line and length and the visitors won off the penultimate ball to give them 20 points to our six in the new win/lose format.

Our seconds went over to Leamington, defending their title. The home side made 204 all out; our captain for the day was Alan Chapman, who claimed 5-37, ably supported by James Turner, 2-31. Our target was slightly reduced by three overs but we reached the line of 198-8 with two overs to spare for a great win.

Our Danes entertained Milford Hall in the Staffordshire Clubs League. Shoukat Malik (32) and Satinder Singh (18) put on 50 for the first wicket, was followed by a couple of fine knocks – 75 by Bari Sultan and a quickfire 72 from Ali Mutza. We made an impressive 263-7. The opposition were never intent on going for this score and we had to settle for a winning draw at 155-5.

Rugeley put our Courts into bat and they managed 220. Hassan Touquer with 68, and Rohit Tenugu (35) were the main contributors. In the words of Sam Raza, we blew them away. He took two wickets, Tenugu three and Rashid Shah two as Rugeley were dismissed for 150 and we got a lovely 24 points.

Our Wergs were playing Fouroaks with a young side and we struggled to 138. Krishan Patel made 60 – his third score of 50-plus in three matches. They fought hard, taking seven wickets before Fouroaks reached the target.

On Sunday, we played our National Knockout first-round match away to Old Hill. Sadly, their score of 267 was always a formidable total for our young side. Apart from captain Karl Quiney (41) and Simon Lycett (38), none of our other youngsters scored double figures and we lost by 86 runs.

Hill climbs his way to karate gold spot

KARATE star Richard Hill has hit gold in the Irish Open championships. Hill, assistant coach at the Essington-based Elite Shotokan club, triumphed in the kumite (fighting) discipline at Dublin.

The 27-year-old battled his way through six bouts to reach the final and claim gold, competing against fighters from across Ireland and the UK. Hill, from Great Wyrley, was selected as part of the London Havering squad.

Elite Shotokan's chief instructor David Hill said: "This is a great result for Richard, who has been training since he was just seven. He has already won a silver medal at the Sakagami International karate championships in Leicester back in February. He did the club proud."

Hill trains three times a week with Elite Shotokan, which meets at Essington Community Centre on Wednesdays and Fridays. For more details on the club, call Dave Hill on 07854 908735 or check the club's Facebook page.

Cup decided in extra time

Wolverhampton 0
Brierley Hill & Dudley 1
(after extra time)

AN extra time goal by Ethan Jones proved the difference between the sides in an entertaining West Midlands Schools District Cup clash.

In an even first half, home keeper Jamie Bostock made an outstanding one-handed save from Jeremy Moore only to be eclipsed within moments by his oppositie number, Luke Wakeman, who repelled Jamie Goodwin's ferocious shot.

Wakeman denied Louis Harper after the beak and Kane Lewis hit the post but it ended 0-0. In extra time Paul Griffiths' header was blocked before Jones scored.

Penalties decide final after it goes to extra time

Stourbridge U12A 1
WBA U12 Colts 1
(aet, Stourbridge won 5-4 on penalties)

STOURBRIDGE won a dramatic penalty shoot-out to take cup final victory.

Stourbridge started on the front foot and scored in the first minute.

With their first attack, Jordan Edwards battled hard on the edge of the WBA box and slotted the ball through to Rohan Brown, who poked it past the keeper.

West Brom threatened on the quarter-hour, but Hayden Reeves saved the day with a last-ditch tackle at the expense of a corner.

But the reprieve was shortlived as the ball was swung in and scrambled home for the equaliser.

In the first period of extra time, West Brom pressed but without creating too much in the way of clear-cut chances.

In the second period of extra time, with just a minute remaining, Stourbridge netted following a free-kick.

But the celebrations were cut short as the strike was ruled offside.

Both goalkeepers made fine saves in the shoot-out, but it was Stourbridge who prevailed.

Forest Falcons U13 East 1
Stourbridge U13B 5

Stourbridge needed victory to gain automatic promotion to Division One – and got it.

Some good football was played as Stourbridge eased home with two goals from Brooke Price and single strikes by Sam Green, Conner Fowkes and Liam Green.

Price took the man of the match award as Stourbridge celebrated gaining promotion with three games yet to play.

Brierley Hill Bullets U15 1
Stourbridge U15B 4

A hat-trick from Jordan Siviter and a splendid goal from Richard Hanson secured a much-needed win for Stourbridge.

But while the scorers may have got the glory, it was keeper Callam Rich who gained the man of the match award.

Rich had kept Stourbridge in the game early on with two magnificent saves which earned him the honour.

Results: Stourbridge U11 9 Gornal Colts U11 0, Kewford Eagles U12 North 0 Stourbridge U12B 3.

Neil McKnight, left, from William Perry and Aaron Bragan of Brooklands swap blows. McKnight got the verdict

Wayne Smith from Droitwich disappears through the ropes but returned to beat Brooklands' Jake McHale

Brooklands boxers are at full throttle for big show

A CAPACITY crowd delighted former English boxing champion Darren McDermott when he put on an amateur show at the Woodcross club at Bilston. McDermott, who runs Woodsetton-based Brooklands ABC from his home gym, thanked supporters and sponsors for their response.

Among the Brooklands contingent in action was Chad Rogers, topping the bill and winning on points.

Nialle Benfield-York lost on points in what McDermott described as the fight of the night with many in the crowd thinking he had done enough to get the verdict.

Alex Benfield-York, Harry Conlan, Ethan Collins and coach Jason Hodgkiss were all points winners with Collins winning the best boxer award.

Luke McHale, Paige Goodyear, Aaron Bragan (in his first bout), Jake McHale, Liam Lawrence and Ryan Bragan were all beaten on points while Dyllon Rodger was stopped when caught cold by a body shot.

Hammers turn the screw on Lockmen

Willenhall Town 2
Cradley Town 3

TIRED and depleted Willenhall Town threw away a two-goal lead after a first-half performance as dominant as anything they have produced in the West Midlands Premier this season.

The Reds started well with former Willenhall keeper Matt Jones denying both Jake Morgan and Jan Trapszo early on before Karl Gardner cleared off the line.

Jamel Fuller saw an effort blocked on the line but the goal that had been threatened arrived on 22 minutes.

Trapszo and Fuller set up leading scorer Morgan to fire home. The lead was doubled seven minutes by Jamie Siviter .

Cradley began to get on top in the second half and forced 16-year-old Aaron Cooper into two excellent saves before another ex-Red, Chris Bladen, played through Spencer Blackham to finish on 54 minutes.

Bladen levelled with a header into the far corner three minutes later and with seven minutes left the Hammers got the winner.

Cooper saved spectacularly but the ball was scrambled home with several players claiming a touch.

Opener steadies ship on course to victory

Stourbridge 220, Old Elizabethans 115.
Stourbridge won by 105 runs

STOURBRIDGE firsts notched up a good victory to open their season.

Richard Bradley's team, away to Old Elizabethans in Birmingham and District Division Two, weathered an early storm after losing four wickets for just 23 runs.

The rescue act came from opener Alex Bingham, who fought his way to 89 and gave his team a lifeline.

Cricket

Fellow opener Matt Bradley started the procession, falling lbw to pace man Hemaka Parithranage for four with the total on seven.

Stour No.3 Audy Alexander followed, caught off the bowling of Denovan Ekstraal, then skipper Richard Bradley was bowled by Parithranage and Steve Game became Ekstraal's second victim.

Bingham applied himself, stroking the ball with ease and taking the score past 50 and then 100 with Adam Lawley, a new acquisition.

Old Elizabethans were finally under the cosh, but with Stourbridge on top Lawley presented a caught and bowled opportunity to Callum Scott.

Looking skywards, the disappointed Lawley walked off having made a hard-earned 35. His demise ended a partnership of 94 with Bingham in the 35th over.

The ray of hope for Old Elizabethans faded as Bingham and 21-year-old Jitesh Patel continued the momentum taking the score towards the 200. Eleven short of his hundred, Bingham was bowled by Newland in the 48th over with the score on 198. He had put on 84 with Patel.

Bingham batted for three hours 13 minutes and hit 12 boundaries

His innings turned the fortunes for his team, although Stourbridge lost direction in the final two overs losing four wickets. Patel was bowled for 32 by Newland, who bagged all the final four wickets.

The home team crumbled to 70-5. Matt Bradley got the break through taking the wickets of both openers, skipper Jamie Boyle and Tareq Jamil. Liam Ridings (21) and Denovan Ekstraal (27) threatened to take the game away but the 17-year-old Ali Shah had him caught at slip.

Bradley introduced leg spinner of Audy Alexander and medium pacer Kalpesh Patel, who took 4-22.

Stourbridge held all their catches and forced a run-out to see them to the winning line with 11 overs to spare.

The seconds beat Streetly by 30 runs.

DK soundly beaten but show signs of promise

Some bright spots for DK as Matt Farrington, left, ploughs on and Duncan Chance scores. *Pictures: Ian Jackson*

Otley 59 Dudley Kingswinford 31

DUDLEY KINGSWINFORD learned some lessons in this 90-point game.

With DK's future already settled, a mixture of experience and youth were dispatched to face Otley away on Saturday in National Two North.

The home side came out with all guns blazing as James Twomey scored in less than a minute.

Twelve minutes in, Duncan Chance equalised, Jon Higgins converting the try. But Otley's forward pressure smashed three tries past Dudley before half-time, leaving them 26-14 down at the break.

Tom Bissell scored right after the restart for DK, but Otley ran in four straight tries. DK were still enjoying throwing the ball around and Connah Jones ran in from a tapped penalty.

Powerful Otley managed two more tries before the final whistle.

DK were well-beaten on the day in what was effectively a dead rubber for the team.

But they still showed flashes of promise which may bode well for next season.

Fullwood has no luck in the draw

STOURBRIDGE darter Nick Fullwell was not favoured by the luck of the draw at the weekend.

First he came within a game of sealing his spot at the European Tour event in Dusseldorf, Germany, this month after winning two matches on Friday.

'The Hero' dropped just a leg beating Richie Howson 6-1 and then beat Gaz Cousins 6-4 in the second round to step up a decider with Terry Temple.

But he proved too tough a nut to crack and he nabbed the European place.

Fullwell was back at the Robin Park Centre, Wigan, for Saturday's first of two UK Open qualifiers and progressed past the first round, 6-4 over Lee Palfreyman.

But the 43-year-old was put with world No 5 Simon Whitlock and lost 6-4. He then drew world No 4 James Wade in the first round on Sunday and lost.

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Glass is shattered in defeat on road

Chippenham 4 Stourbridge 0

MUCH-CHANGED Stourbridge lost heavily at Chippenham.

The Glassboys were looking to put the defeat behind them on Tuesday night at home to Gosport Borough in the Evo-Stik Southern Premier play-off semi-final.

Boss Gary Hackett rested several players at Chippenham as the focus turned to Stour's bid for promotion to Conference North.

Luke Benbow was also serving his one-match ban.

Of the regulars, only the central defensive pairing Nathan Bennett and Paul McCone and striker Ben Mackey started.

Loose

Chippenham took the lead in the ninth minute.

A loose pass from McCone was collected by the lively Joe McClennan, who whipped in a cross from the right that enabled Dean Griffiths to head past Lewis Solly.

On 16 minutes Chippenham's Iain Harvey received a throw-in from the right. He crossed to Alan Griffin, whose header drifted wide .

But two minutes later Chippenham stretched their lead. McClennan slipped a pass leftt to James Guthrie. His cross picked out an unmarked Griffiths, who stooped to head home.

In the 28th minute it got worse for Stourbridge as they conceded a third. The Glassboys struggled to clear a free-kick and the ball finally arrived to Alex Kite, who headed in.

Four minutes into the second half, Guthrie burst through the heart of the Glassboys defence and tucked away a low shot.

Late on Solly hobbled off and assistant-manager Jon Ford taking his place.

He tipped a Griffiths cross-shot over the bar and enjoyed a couple of ventures forward for set-pieces.

Pearson is so proud

HEATHENS chairman Nigel Pearson has declared his pride at the success of the British Under-21 speedway final held at Monmore Green.

The former Cradley club hosted the event for the second consecutive year in front of a bumper crowd as Coventry new-boy Robert Branford took victory.

"The crowd was up on last year," said Pearson. "We were very pleased."

Lions roar to victory and win promotion

Rugby union

Burntwood 5 Stourbridge Lions 25

STOURBRIDGE Lions finished their season with a flourish with a comprehensive win to secure promotion back to Midlands Two. But there must have been a few frayed nerves at half-time with the score 0-0

The first half was a cagey with the Lions kept in their own half by strong Burntwood defence and a wind that blew any Stourbridge kicks back in their faces.

Fly-half Tom Mitchell went close to securing three points for the Lions when his penalty hit the right post and bounced into the arms of a Burntwood player.

Burntwood failed to use the strong breeze to their advantage and soon became frustrated at not finding a way through the Lions defence. Those frustrations finally boiled over when Lions winger James Mitchell was tackled after the whistle.

Just as the teams seemed to be calming down, a Burntwood second row punched Tom Mitchell to earn himself a yellow card.

The Lions started to turn the screw in the scrum. This pressure would have resulted in the first try but for an infringement by a Burntwood scrum-half who also saw yellow.

The Lions started the brighter in the second half and utility forward Scott Langdon crashed over for his fourth try in the last three games. A quick tap penalty by centre Harry Wainwright brought another try, converted by Tom Mitchell for 12-0.

A rare misplaced pass brought a Burntwood break which produced an unconverted try.

Stourbridge soon regained the advantage as they worked their way back up the pitch and were awarded another penalty, Tom Mitchell making no mistake for 15-5.

The forwards now began to finally assert their dominance and following a catch-and-drive move from a lineout, mauled their way over the line with second row Simon Crouch splashing over the line in the left corner.

The Lions needed one more try for the bonus point and got it when captain Stuart Doolittle crossed for his 25th score of the season.

Promotion and the Midlands Senior Vase triumph make it the most successful year in the club's history.

The Lions thirds also had a successful end to their Worcester and Hereford Merit League Division Two season, beating league leaders Ledbury 25-12 with two tries from Andy Slater and one each for Andy Tomlinson, James Dallison and colt Nick Gill.

SAXONS WAKE UP TO SHAKE OFF BEES

Rugby union

Stourbridge Saxons 31 Birmingham & Solihull 12

STOURBRIDGE finally roused themselves to kill off the challenge of Birmingham and Solihull. But it may not be enough to lift the National Two North title.

The visitors, trailing by just two points at the break thanks to Saxons' indiscipline and the boot of Bees' fly-half Lee Chapman, looked set to repeat their 2011-12 victory before a second-half hat-trick from winger Nathan Bressington killed off their challenge.

The post-match atmosphere was muted by Hull Ionians' win at Sheffield Tigers, meaning they are within a bonus point win over Caldy of clinching the title.

This would condemn the Saxons to a runners-up spot and home play-off on May 11 against the National Two South runners-up – Henley or Worthing, who play each other next Saturday.

After Chapman missed with an early penalty attempt, the Saxons were on the scoreboard quickly once Bees failed to secure lineout ball in their own 22.

Following a couple of forward drives, Sione Tu'ipolotu stepped inside a line defender, wrong-footing the entire defence to score between the posts.

Bees struck back when the Saxons were penalised for hands in the ruck, Chapman's boot narrowing the lead further when the Saxons transgressed again at a scrum near halfway. He narrowly missed with another attempt following an offside, but seized the lead with a monster drop goal return of a 22 dropout.

A Bees' offence in the post-tackle was kicked for the corner and the Saxons went for a catch & drive, flanker Ejike Uzoigwe breaking from the base to score with a short range drive down the narrow side. Jamie Hearn again converted but Chapman was able to slot another penalty for hands in the ruck before the halftime whistle went with the score at 14-12.

With barely five minutes gone in the second half Will Hurrell forced a penalty for holding on in the tackle, his quick tap launching a move that saw Ben Barkley make big inroads down the left side before the ball was moved back right where Hurrell's pass gave Bressington enough space to round the last defender and score in the corner.

Another fluffed Bees lineout and a stiffening breeze enabled Tu'ipolotu's kick to secure a lineout deep in Bees' territory, an athletic take by Ben Hughes saw the ball moved right then left before Tu'ipolotu's floated miss pass was fed to Bressington, who cruised round the cover to score the bonus point try, Hearn converting well from wide out.

The final score came from a neat training ground move off a scrum that saw White draw the last defender to put Bressington in for his third.

Stourbridge Saxons outside half Sione Tu'ipolotu barges over for the opening try against Birmingham and Solihull

Place in league secure after win

Causeway United 1 Highgate United 0

CAUSEWAY won their final game of the season to guarantee their safety in the Midland Alliance for another season.

It probably should have been a wider winning margin as the home side spurned a number of chances.

The first real opportunity came on 13 minutes when an inswinging corner from Stuart How shaved the crossbar.

Two minutes later, Aaron Lloyd found some space in the box but his low shot was well saved by Shaun Edwards in the Highgate goal.

A turn and shot from Craig Gregg was also well saved and into the second half, Jack Pearlman just failed to connect with a Scott Devlin free kick for what would have been a certain goal.

Chased

But on 57 minutes the breakthrough came when a neat move culminating in a cross from Gregg was superbly finished by Lloyd.

There was controversy on 68 minutes when United's Adam Meacham chased a through ball and was impeded by defender Simon Bradbury, seemingly in the area.

The refereee sent Bradbury off, but after consulting with his linesman, gave a free kick just outside the area.

The visitors almost equalised on 80 minutes when Neil Kitching produced a low shot after finding himself free in the area, but Tom Turner in the Causeway goal saved well.

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